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SASUGANO SARUTOBI

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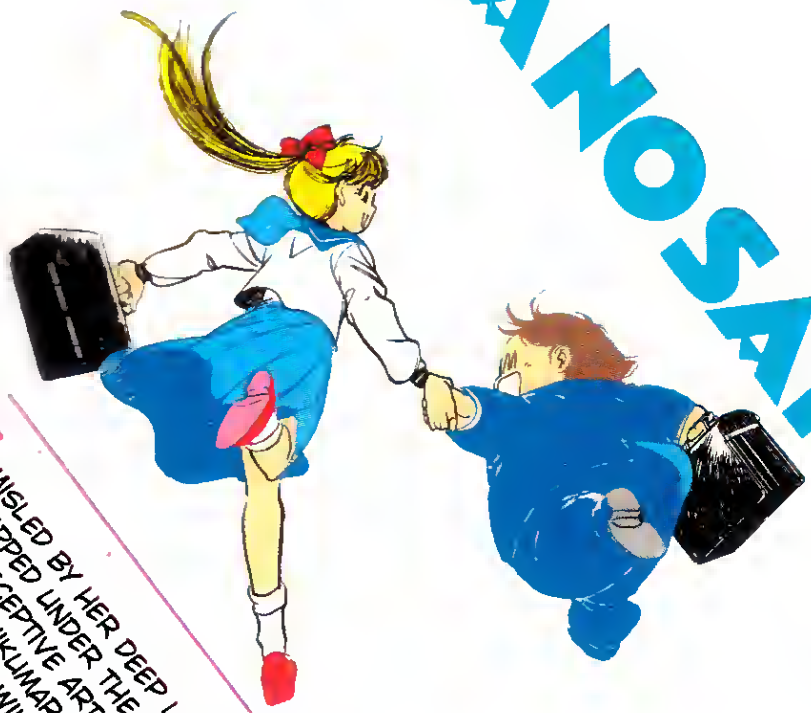
SASUGANOSARU



- MISLED BY HER DEEP LOVE FOR NIKUMARU, KIRIGA MAKO HAS BEEN TRAPPED UNDER THE SINISTER SPELL OF AN UNPARALLELED MASTER OF THE DECEPTIVE ARTS. AS PART OF HIS TWISTED PLOT, MAKO HAS NOW BECOME NIKUMARU'S ENEMY AND HAS BEEN TRANSPORTED TO THE ISLAND OF DEMONS. WILL THEY BE TORN APART FOREVER IN A TRAGIC FINALE, OR IS SOMETHING EVEN GREATER IN STORE FOR NIKUMARU AND MAKO!?

UTOBI SASUGA!

Shonen Sunday Comics

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ACADEMY OF NINJAS VOLUME 7

HOSONO FUJIHIKO

★LAST TIME ON ACADEMY OF NINJAS★

FOR REASONS UNKNOWN, OUR STORY'S FOCUS IS THE WACKY EVENTS RELATED TO A MODERN DAY NINJA'S EVERYDAY, YET, EXTRAORDINARY HIGH SCHOOL LIFE. NIKUMARU, GRANDSON OF THE INSTITUTE'S FOUNDER, DEDICATES HIS TIME IMPROVING HIS SKILLS AT A CERTAIN SHINOBI ACADEMY. JUST AS HIS NAME IMPLIES, NIKUMARU THE MEATBALL OFTEN SPENDS MORE TIME CHOWING DOWN (OR THINKING ABOUT THE BEAUTIFUL KIRIGA MAKO) THAN FOCUSING ON EXCELLING WITH HIS TECHNIQUE. NATURALLY, HIS GLUTTONY IMPACTS HIS SUCCESS IN BOTH NINJA SKILLS AND ROMANCE. HOWEVER, DON'T UNDERESTIMATE NIKUMARU'S NAMESAKE, THE 'EXPLOSIVE' KAMIKAZE NO JUTSU. MAKO, DAUGHTER OF THE ACADEMY'S HEADMASTER, HAS ASTONISHINGLY FALLEN HEAD OVER HEELS FOR NIKUMARU. WHEN BOTTOMLESS STOMACHS AND PERVERTED HIJINKS COLLIDE, EVERY DAY AT THE ACADEMY OF NINJAS IS AN ABSOLUTE RIOT. UNFORTUNATELY, NIKUMARU AND MAKO ARE ON A COLLISON COURSE WITH TRAGEDY. EVERYTHING WILL BE SETTLED IN THE GRAND FINAL ON THE ISLAND OF DEMONS!!

ACADEMY OF NINJAS 7 Page Number

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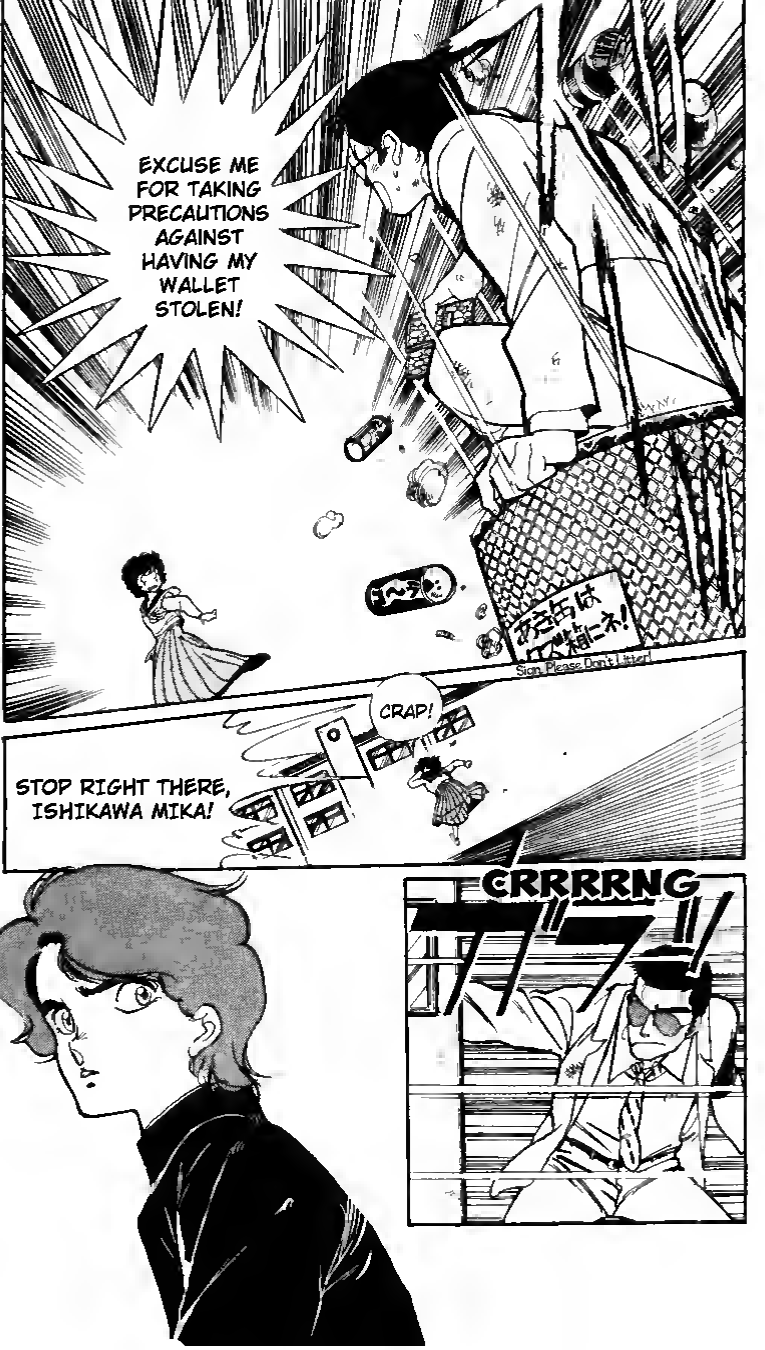
HOSONO FUJIHIKO

Ishikawa Mika: Walking the Tightrope of Love

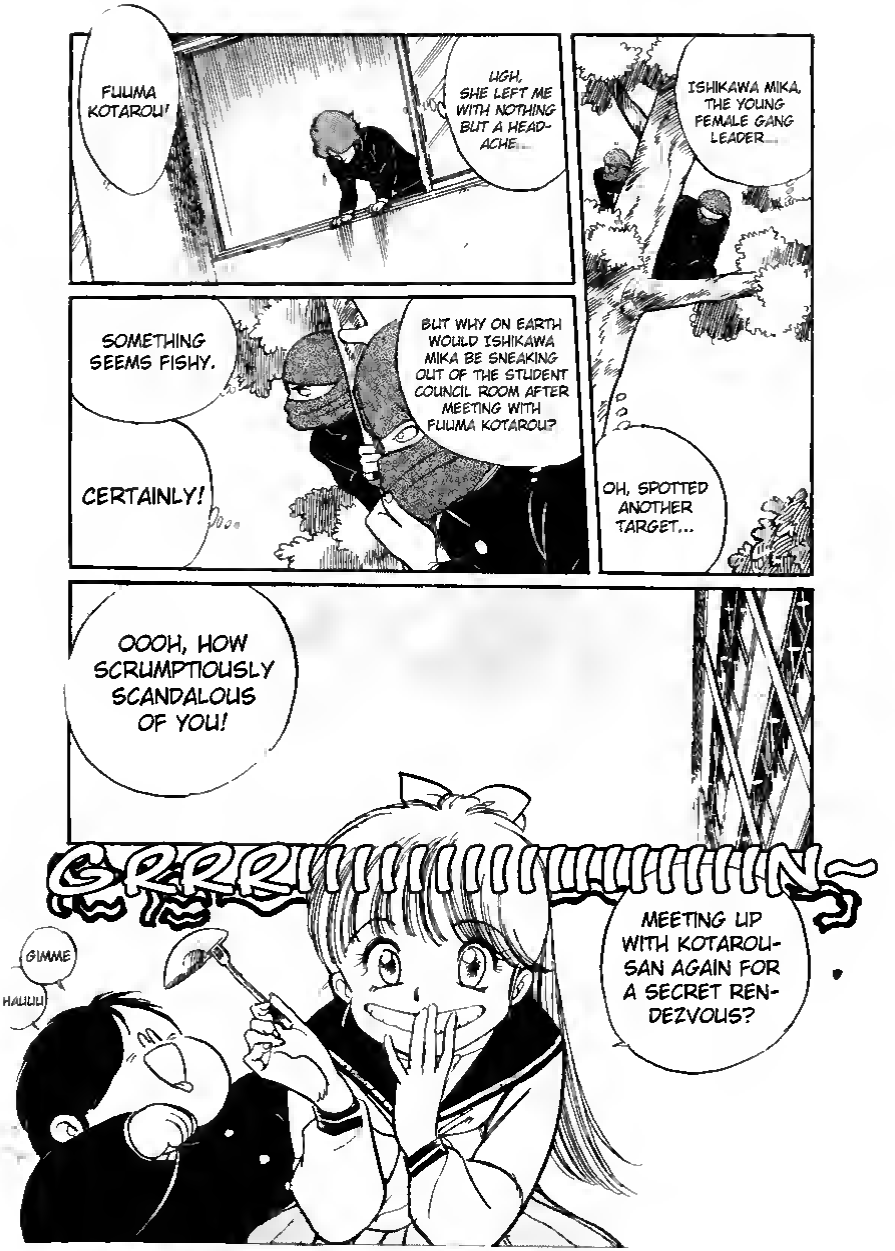
THREE.
ONE.
FOUR.
TWO.
TCH! FOR A TEACHER, HE SURE DOESN'T HANG ONTO MUCH CASH.
WHOOP
SNATCH!
おきゃくは
カネ持ち!
Sign: Please Don't Litter!


EXCUSE ME FOR TAKING PRECAUTIONS AGAINST HAVING MY WALLET STOLEN!
Sign. Please Don't Litter!
CRAP!
STOP RIGHT THERE, ISHIKAWA MIKA!
CRRRRNG

FUUMA...
WHAT'S GOTTEN YOU ALL FLUSTERED, OGATA-SENSEI?
WAIT A MINUTE... ISN'T THIS THE STUDENT COUNCIL'S ROOM?
YOU AREN'T MISTAKEN IN THE SLIGHTEST, SIR
BY CHANCE, DID ISHIKAWA MIKA RUN INTO THIS ROOM TO CONCEAL HERSELF?
I HAVEN'T SEEN HER
HMMMMM... SEEMS LIKE SHE'S PULLED A REAL FAST ONE ON ME THIS TIME.
WHAT'S ISHIKAWA-KUN GOTTEN HERSELF INTO NOW?
WELL, FOR STARTERS, SHE'S INSULTED MY POCKET CHANGE. WAIT, FORGET ABOUT THAT!
ANY MORE INFORMATION, AND YOU'LL START JUMPING TO CONCLUSIONS
SORRY TO BOTHER YOU.
GODDAMMIT, ALL THAT GIRL'S GOOD FOR IS RUNNING AWAY FROM THE CONSEQUENCES OF HER ACTIONS!
AHH
CLOMP
HE'S GONE NOW.
CREEEEEK
THANK YOU~

ISHIKAWA-KUN, THE STUDENT COUNCIL ROOM ISN'T DESIGNED FOR YOU TO PLAY HIDE AND SEEK. PLEASE, KEEP THIS IN MIND FOR THE FUTURE
DON'T BE SUCH A STICKLER, CHIEF. JUST LET ME HANG OUT FOR A BIT, THEN.
PA-TAT
WONDERFUL ACTING, MR. STUDENT COUNCIL PRESIDENT. I KNEW I COULD COUNT ON YOU.♡
...
AND WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH CALLING ME ISHIKAWA-KUN ANYWAYS? HUH? SHOULDN'T YOU BE TREATING ME LIKE YOUR BOSS?
SORRY, I'M SUCH A BAD GIRL.~
WITHOUT WARNING, I'LL SOON DESCEND ONTO THE PATH OF DELINQUENCY. FURTHERMORE, I'M BEING BLACKMAILED BY A FEMALE GANG LEADER. I CAN ONLY HOPE MY BODY GIVES OUT BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!
AAAAAAAAARRRRGGGGGHHH! EXPOSING THE STUDENT COUNCIL PRESIDENT OF THE ACADEMY OF NINJAS TO SUCH FRIVOLENT BEHAVIOR...
...
OOPS, I FORGOT. WHO WAS IT THAT WAS ALMOST LEFT HANGING FOR ALL ETERNITY FROM A ROPE DURING THE WARGAMES SCREAMING 'SAVE MEEEEEEEEE' LIKE A LITTLE GIRL?

...
SO FAR, THAT INCIDENT'S BEEN KEPT A CLOSE-KNIT SECRET BETWEEN NIKUMARU, MAKO, AND THE TWO OF US. HOWEVER, IT WOULDN'T TAKE MUCH FOR ME TO UNZIP THESE PRETTY LIPS OF MINE, NOW WOULD IT?
...
I WONDER WHAT THE REST OF THE SCHOOL WOULD THINK OF THEIR POMPOUS STUDENT COUNCIL PRESIDENT IF THEY FOUND OUT ALL THE JUICY DETAILS FROM THAT STORY, ESPECIALLY THE PART ABOUT ME RESCUING YOU!
HEHEHEH. MISTRESS? I'M LIKING THIS SETUP MORE AND MORE EVERY DAY.
I OWE MY LIFE TO YOU, MISTRESS ISHIKAWA!!
WUZZAT? SPEAK UP, KIDDO.
I OWE YOU MY LIFE, ISHIKAWA-KUN
TMP
THAT'S...
WELL, I'LL DROP BY AGAIN TO MESS AROUND ANOTHER TIME ♡
SWOOP


FUUMA KOTAROU!
UGH, SHE LEFT ME WITH NOTHING BUT A HEADACHE...
ISHIKAWA MIKA, THE YOUNG FEMALE GANG LEADER...
SOMETHING SEEMS FISHY.
BUT WHY ON EARTH WOULD ISHIKAWA MIKA BE SNEAKING OUT OF THE STUDENT COUNCIL ROOM AFTER MEETING WITH FUUMA KOTAROU?
CERTAINLY!
OH, SPOTTED ANOTHER TARGET...
OOOH, HOW SCRUMPTIOUSLY SCANDALOUS OF YOU!
GRRRIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIN~
MEETING UP WITH KOTAROU-SAN AGAIN FOR A SECRET RENDEZVOUS?
GIMME
HAUUU

HE ALWAYS GETS SOOOOO WORKED UP!
BUGGING HIM'S FUN, THAT'S ALL. STRAIGHT-LACED GUYS LIKE HIM ARE THE BEST TO TEASE
'COURSE I AM EVERY GIRL NEEDS HERSELF A CHEAP SOURCE OF ENTERTAIN-MENT
WAIT, YOU'RE TEASING HIM?
GIMME A BREAK, IT AIN'T NOTHIN' LIKE THAT, DORK!
YOU TWO HAVE BEEN COMPLETELY INSEPARABLE SINCE THE SCHOOLWIDE WARGAMES.♡
YOU LITTLE VIXEN!
ANYONE CAN TELL KOTAROU-SAN'S VERY HANDSOME, BUT HE DOESN'T HAVE A WHOLE LOT ELSE GOING FOR HIM....
I JUST DON'T GET IT.
MAYBE HIS TIME IN THE SPOT-LIGHT'S OVER?
SURE! SORRY TO RUIN YOUR APPETITE FOR GOSSIP
HMMM WELL, THAT'S BORING
FOR STARTERS, HE'S GOT A SHARPER FACE THAN NIKUMARU. PLUS, HIS LEGS ARE LONGER THAN NIKU-MARU'S. ALSO, HE HAS MORE GIRLS CHASING AFTER HIM THAN NIKUMARU. DON'T FORGET, HE DOESN'T RACK UP THE FOOD BILL LIKE NIKUMARU!
HEY, YOU SHOULD AT LEAST GIVE CREDIT WHERE CREDIT'S DUE INSTEAD OF IN-SULTING THE POOR GUY.
IF HE WASN'T THE STUDENT COUNCIL PRE-SIDENT, HE'D PROBABLY JUST FADE INTO THE BACKGROUND
EVEN DURING THE WARGAMES, HE ONLY SHOWED UP FOR A BIT TO EM-BARASS HIMSELF.

HEY, A BOSS HAS GOTTA ASSESS THE VALUE OF HER UNDERLINGS, RIGHT?
RIGHT, THAT MUST BE WHY THEY CALL YOU MIKA THE MAN-EATER
WELL, WELL, WELL. HAVEN'T YOU BEEN PAYING A LITTLE TOO MUCH ATTENTION TO HIM? I THOUGHT YOU WERE JUST FRAZZLING HIS HAIR A LITTLE?
EXACTLY.
I ALWAYS AIM FOR THE SEXIEST MEN AS MY SERVANTS.
BLACKS.
WHITES
NOT ONLY JAPANESE EITHER
SO, I BELONG TO YOU TOO, MIKA-CHAN?
BOING!
TAKE IT EASY.
EVERY LAST HOT GUY IN THE WORLD BELONGS TO ME!
THE DESIRE OF A SINGLE WOMAN

COME AT ME ONCE AGAIN!!
TWAAAAAAANG
WITH PLEASURE.
TAK TAK
Chok
DON'T COUNT ME OUT JUST YET.
KLANGTANG
PSSSH
CHIK
Tchak
I CAN STILL FIGHT!
WO-OO-OOW.
TAACHOK

HRAH.
HMMGH
MY ADVICE IS TO PROTECT THAT PRETTY FACE OF YOURS A LITTLE BETTER, HOT-SHOT.
HRRGH
HAHH.
HUFF.
HACK.
NNGH
BOUND
VWHA
FINE, FORGET ABOUT IT. JUST SAY WHAT YOU'VE GOTTA SAY.
TCH. YOU SURE GOT A LOT OF CRAP TO WORRY ABOUT.
DON'T MAKE ME HUNT YOU DOWN LIKE THAT.
SHHHH-SHHHH-HHHHHH. I DON'T WANT TO BE SEEN TALKING TO YOU IN PUBLIC!

KEEP IT FOR YOURSELF.
FU-LI!
TOSS!
THOUGHT YOU MIGHT BE THIRSTY LIKE MAD, SO I POPPED BY THE VENDING MACHINE FOR YOU. USUALLY, THIS IS WHERE YOU SAY THANKS.
YOU TELL ME, SMARTS. HERE'S A HINT: IT'S A SPORTS DRINK.
WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS?
OF COURSE IT IS!
UNLESS I CAN SHAKE THIS INSUFFERABLE WOMAN FROM CLINGING ONTO ME CEASELESSLY, I'M BOUND TO BE DRAGGED INTO A DANGEROUS SCANDAL BEFORE I KNOW IT!
MAN, JUST SAY WHAT YOU WANNA SAY. QUIT TRYING TO TAKE THE MATURE STANCE OR WHATEVER YOU CALL THAT JUNK
INDEED!
IF YOU DON'T WANT IT, JUST SAY SO, WEIRDO.
FUJIMA KOTAROU ONLY QUENCHES HIS THIRST WITH THE NATURAL REFRESHMENT OF WATER.
EITHER WAY, THE RESULT'S THE SAME.
AT THIS RATE, SHE'S PREPARED TO DRAG ME DOWN TO HELL WITH HER.
D-DAMNATION, THE FLOODGATES WOULD BURST OPEN THE MOMENT SHE UNVEILS THAT INFORMATION!
THIS SCANDAL WILL BE THE END OF ME!
WONDER WHAT YOU'D DO IF I WENT TO OGATA-SENSEI AND TOLD HIM YOU WERE SHELTERING ME INSIDE THE STUDENT COUNCIL ROOM, HMMM?
GHECK

WITHOUT A COOPERATIVE WITNESS, HOW DO YOU EXPECT THE TEACHERS TO BELIEVE SUCH RIDICULOUS BEHAVIOR FROM THEIR VERY OWN STUDENT COUNCIL PRESIDENT? WHO DO YOU THINK THEY'LL LISTEN TO? A PETTY DELINQUENT OR MYSELF?
WELL, SEEMS LIKE YOU'VE GOT NO PROBLEMS WITH THE TRUTH COMING OUT, SO I'LL BE OFF
TWITCH
MRRRRR
WHAT-EVER.
SCREW THIS.
ISHI-KAWA...?
NNGH!
KLAAAANG

ISHIKAWA MIKA, FEMALE GANG LEADER, I PRESUME.
WHIP
AH!
GRAB
...IN THE FLESH GOT BUSINESS WITH ME, FREAKY MASK GUY?
I DON'T EVEN KNOW YOUR NAME. WHY THE HELL WOULD I LISTEN TO ANY-THING FROM YOU?
NOT EXACTLY. I'D JUST LIKE A MOMENT OF YOUR TIME, TO HEAR WHAT I HAVE TO SAY.
PLAYING DUMB WON'T GET YOU ANYWHERE, MISS WE'VE GOT MORE DIRT ON YOU THAN YOU'D CARE TO KNOW.
DUNNO WHAT YOU MEAN, BUD
SUCH AS YOUR RECENT VISIT WITH FUUMA KOTA-ROU WITHIN THE STUDENT COUNCIL ROOM AND THE SUBSEQUENT ATTEMPT TO LEAVE UNNOTICED. DOES THAT RING A BELL?
NOT EVEN IF IT CONCERNS YOUR RELATIONS WITH FUUMA KOUTAROU?

HUH?
YOU WERE TRYING TO FORCE THE STUDENT COUNCIL PRESIDENT INTO BECOMING YOUR PAWN BY HIRING THAT STRANGE CHINESE MAN TO ATTACK HIM UNTIL HE SUBMITTED! NOW WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO SAY?
BULLSEYE, RIGHT?
WH-WHEN THE HELL DID YOU...?
ASK ME, YOU'VE GOT MORE IMPORTANT THINGS TO BE WORRYING ABOUT.
Y-YES, MA'AM.
AND DON'T FORGET IT.
FROM THE MOMENT SOMEONE PLOPS OUTTA THEIR MOMMA, THEY EXIST TO FOLLOW MY ORDERS! I DON'T HAVE TO PUT A FRIGGIN' HIT OUT ON THEM TO FORCE OBEDIENCE, YOU'RE BORN WITH IT!
I'M ISHI-KAWA MIKA, DAMMIT!
BETTER WATCH WHAT YOU SAY ABOUT ME, JACKASS!
WHY'RE YOU STILL HERE? I DON'T GOT NOTHIN' ELSE TO SAY TO THE LIKES OF YOU!
WHAT ABOUT THAT? NO, IT'S TOO FAR-FETCHED...
IS KOTAROU HER FOLLOWER OR NOT? HARD TO SAY...
SOME-THING'S STILL CONFUSING ME...
WHISTLE
ARE YOU LOVERS BY CHANCE?
COULD IT BE POSSIBLE THAT THE TWO OF YOU... AHEM...
I APOLOGIZE IF I'M IN-CORRECT... HOWEVER...

GUESS I'LL LEAVE THAT...
UP TO YOUR IMAGINATION.
(Issue Number Three) Academy of Ninjas Acclaimer
BIG SCOOP!
Fuuma Kotarou of Class 3-C and Ishikawa Mika of Class 2-A Confirmed To Be In A Passionate, Scorching Hot Relationship!
President Fuuma
Ishikawa Mika-san
ISHIKAWA DOESN'T DENY IT!
KOTAROU MADE A FOOL OUTTA ME, AFTER AAAAALLLLL!?
WOW, IT'S ALL HERE. THEY'RE REALLY BLOWING THIS WHOLE THING OUT OF PROPORTION, THOUGH. OH♡ WOW♡ JEEZ ♡
UNFORGIVABLE, THIS IS SIMPLY TOO RUDE!
NO WAY! THIS HAS TO BE SOME KIND OF CRUEL PRANK ON KOTAROU-SAMA.
HARD TO BELIEVE IT'S TRUE.

BANG
BANG
BANG
BANG
BANG
BANG
BANG
BANG
BANG
BANG
BANG
BANG
...
KOTAROU-SAMA, ANSWER US!!
BAM
BAM
BAM
BAM
BAM
ARE THE RUMORS TRUE, KOTAROU-SAMA? PLEASE TELL ME THE NEWSPAPER'S GRASPING FOR STRAWS!
IS ISHIKAWA-SAN REALLY YOUR GIRLFRIEND!? TELL US THE TRUTH!
POUND
POUND
POUND
POUND
KOTAROU-SAMAAAA
KOTAROU-SAMA!
THE SITUATION'S DETERIORATED FAR BEYOND WHAT I EXPECTED...
UUUGH, THAT INSUFFERABLE WENCH...
HM, STUDENT COUNCIL PRESIDENT?
AND WHAT WOULD YOU SAY IF THEIR SOURCE OF INFORMATION IS COMING FROM A FIRST-HAND WITNESS?
PRINTING A RIDICULOUS FABRICATION SUGGESTING MYSELF AND THAT THAT... DELINQUENT ARE ACTUALLY LOVERS ♡ WHAT BASIS DO THEY HAVE TO CLAIM SUCH NONSENSE!?
H-HOW-EVER...

FWHOOOOOM
HEHEHEH. SIMPLY HEARING MY VOICE SHOULD IMMEDIATELY INFORM YOU OF MY IDENTITY.
WH-WHO'S THERE!?
TOPPLE
HEHEH. IF I MUST.
TAKE OFF THAT MASK, RIGHT NOW!
THAT TERRIBLE EXCUSE FOR A FACE BRINGS BACK MEMORIES OF THE STUDENT COUNCIL ELECTION CATASTROPHE. I DEFEATED YOU AT THE POLLS, HANAKUSA SHIROU!
RIGHT, NOW THAT I THINK OF IT...
YOU WERE THE PRIMARY CAUSE OF THAT CATASTROPHE, JERK!
I WAS ONLY WEARING ONE!
WHEN I SAY TAKE OFF YOUR MASK I MEAN ALL OF THEM!
KEEP TALKING, LOSER. THE FULL POWER OF THIS SCANDAL HAS YET TO BE SEEN. FOR EXAMPLE, LET'S TURN UP THE NOTCH JUST A LITTLE...
ALL YOU'VE ACCOMPLISHED IS BUILDING UP MY FRUSTRATION AND DISDAIN!
ANYWAYS! BECAUSE OF THE HUMILIATION YOU FORCED UPON ME, I'VE BEEN PLOTTING VARIOUS METHODS TO TAKE YOU DOWN FROM YOUR PRECIOUS SEAT OF POWER SINCE THAT VERY DAY.

THEY'LL BEAT YOU HALF TO DEATH.
HURRY UP, FOLLOW ME INSIDE! KOTAROU-SAN'S GROUPIES ARE GONNA...
MAKO?
WHO CARES ABOUT KOTAROU?
ZHOOM
MIKAAAAAA!
STAMPEDE
CHAK
EEEEEEEEEK!
EVEN THOUGH YOU HAVE ALL OF US, YOU RESORT TO THAT INTOLERABLE GIRL... I'LL NEVER FORGIVE YOU!
AAA-AAAH! EEEEEEEK!
KOTAROU-SAMA, WHAT EXACTLY IS THAT DELINQUENT HUSSIE TO YOU!?
THAT DAY, HANAKUSA SHIROU WILL TAKE YOUR SEAT AND HOLD ONTO IT WITH A MALICIOUS GRIP! THEN, MY ERA IN THE SPOTLIGHT WILL UNFOLD!
OHHHH, I SIMPLY KYANNOT WAAAAAAIT UNTIL YOU'RE DETH-WONED, MR. PWESIDENT!

HOLD IT RIGHT THERE!
LOOK, IT'S ISHIKAWA MIKA.
D-DON'T GO IN THERE, MIKA!
ISHIKAWA MIKA.
WHAT'S ISHIKAWA MIKA DOING HERE?
SURE, YOU'RE A GANG LEADER, BUT HOW DO YOU EXPECT TO BEAT ALL OF US!?
YOU'VE SURE GOT GUTS WALKING INTO THE LION'S DEN, MIKA!
RIGHT, SHE'S LOST IT!

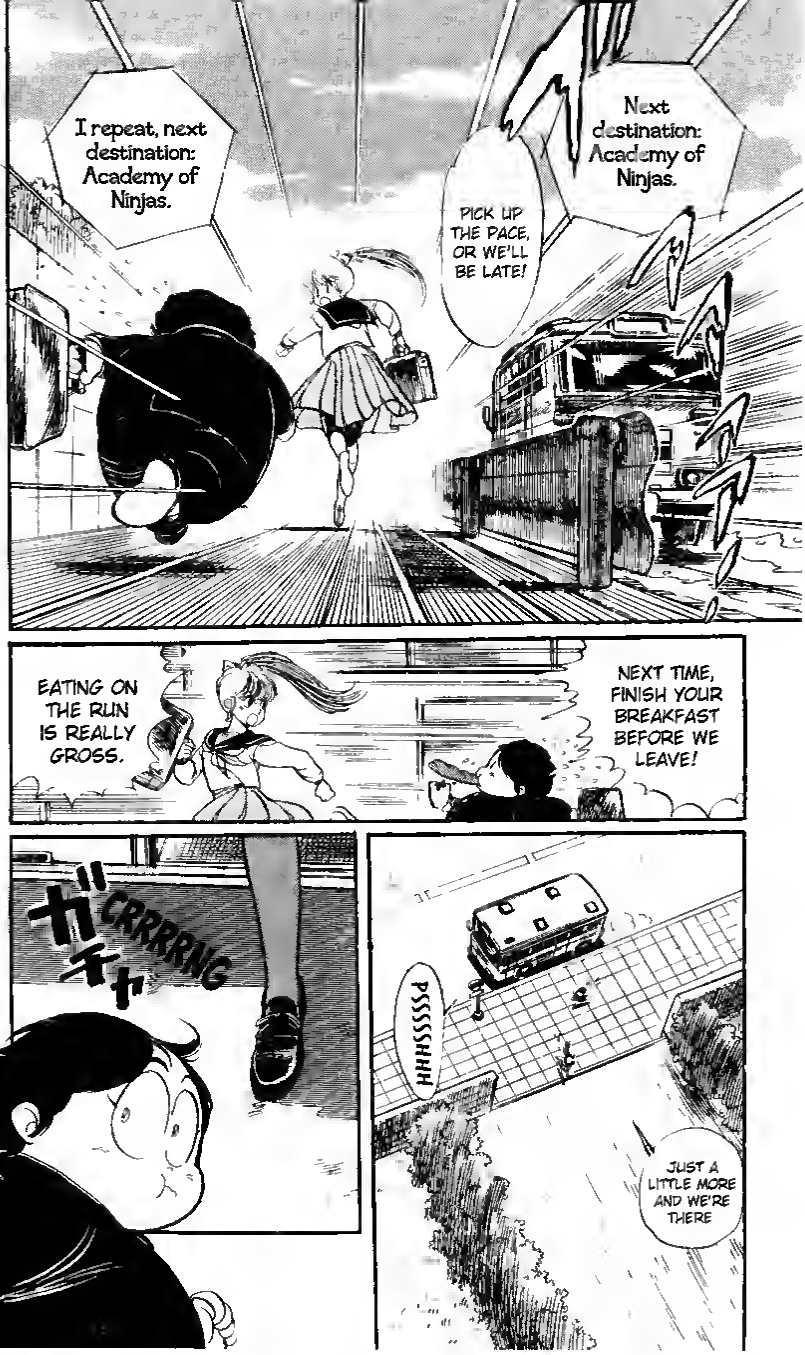
FUNNY STORY YOU GUYS ARE ALL WORKED UP ABOUT.
EEP.
WHAT'S SHE SAYING?
HEH, THAT'S A GOOD ONE. ORIGINAL, I'LL GIVE YOU THAT.
WHAT WAS IT AGAIN? ME AND KOTAROU GETTING ALL LOVEY-DOVEY?
CACOPHONY
RIGHT, SHE'S CRAZY!
ALL WE'VE GOTTA DO IS GET A STATEMENT FROM HIM! THEN, YOU'RE DEAD MEAT!
OGATA-SENSEI CAN VERIFY THAT!
WHAT ABOUT THE ALLEGED DATE YOU HAD WITH KOTAROU-SAMA WITHIN THIS VERY ROOM!?
ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY THAT ARTICLE DOESN'T HAVE ANY FACTUAL BASIS?
I DIDN'T SAY WE WERE LOVERS OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT.
DON'T GET AHEAD OF YOURSELVES!
LISTEN TO THE WHOLE DAMN STORY BEFORE YOU START FLIPPING OUT!
FINALLY SHE ADMITTED THE TRUTH!
IT'S KINDA TRUE.
Let's kill 'er, girls!
SADLY...

TURNED ME DOWN!
NO, DON'T SAY IT, ISHIKAWA! I'M BEGGING YOU!
KOTA-ROU...
HUH?
EVERY DAY, I'D SNEAK INTO THE STUDENT COUNCIL ROOM, TRYING THIS AND THAT TO WIN HIM OVER, BUT HE WAS JUST TOO IGNORANT TO NOTICE, I GUESS.
THE ONLY ONE WHO'S FELT ALL PASSIONATE OR LOVEY-DOVEY'S ME.
I DON'T CARE THAT'S ENOUGH TO ALLEVIATE MY ANXIETY
UHH...
WAS SHE LYING, KOTAROU-SAMA?
FORGIVE ME. I PERSECUTED YOU FOR A CRIME YOU DIDN'T COMMIT, KOTAROU-SAMA
WE'RE ALL SORRY.
ISHIKAWA...
HE'S THE FIRST BOY I'VE MET THAT'S THIS IGNORANT.
SO, I'M OFFI-CIALLY GIVING UP.

I HEARD IT DIRECTLY FROM HER MOUTH. THEY'RE MOST CERTAINLY A PAIR OF LOVERS!
SHE'S JUST TRYING TO TAKE THE EASY ROAD OUT OF THIS SITUATION BY MAKING UP ANOTHER HALF-HEARTED LIE!
DON'T BE LED ASTRAY BY HER WORDS, GIRLS!
HUHHH?
LIAR!
OOPS!
REALLY, NOW? GUESS THAT PINS YOU AS THE FREAKY MASKED GUY, THEN.
WHAAAAAT!? IS THAT FOR REAL!?
LADIES! THIS MAN IS A FORMER ELECTORAL CANDIDATE! HE ATTEMPTED TO DEFAME MY REPUTATION AS THE STUDENT COUNCIL PRESIDENT AND STEAL THE PRESIDENTIAL SEAT WITH A SCANDAL!
WONDERFUL IMAGINATION YOU HAVE THERE. GUESS I COULD SAY YOU DIDN'T DISAPPOINT ME
U-UHMM, WAIT...
GUESS I'LL BE LEAVING.
SMACK!
CRACK!!
WE'RE GONNA BEAT YOUR NASTY FACE IN, CREEP!
NO MERCY.

MORONS
SUSPI-COUS VERY SUSPICIOUS
STILL CAN'T BELIEVE YOU ACTUALLY TOOK A HIT TO YOUR ENORMOUS PRIDE AND TOLD THAT EMBARASSING LIE.
QUITE THE ACTRESS YOU ARE, MIKA.
HEHEHE, GLAD YOU LIKED THE PERFOR-MANCE.
TRYIN' TO BE CUTE DOESN'T WORK ON ME, Y'KNOW
WELL, HERE'S HOPING THINGS TURN OUT BETTER NEXT TIME.♡
OH, IS THAT ALL?
A BOSS HAS TO PROTECT HER SUBORDINATES, AIN'T THAT RIGHT?
DAMN STRAIGHT.
Ohoho here comes some embarrassing revelation
THANK YOU FOR PRO-TECTING ME.
ISHIKAWA-KUN . AHEM.. TODAY, YOUR QUICK THINKING PROVED INVALU-ABLE..
AH!
YES! ONCE AGAIN, I OWE YOU MY LIFE, MISTRESS ISHIKAWA!!
ADDRESS YOUR SUPERIOR ACCORDINGLY, YOU PIECE OF TRASH!

The Transfer Student's In Love!?


I repeat, next destination: Academy of Ninjas.
Next destination: Academy of Ninjas.
PICK UP THE PACE, OR WE'LL BE LATE!
EATING ON THE RUN IS REALLY GROSS.
NEXT TIME, FINISH YOUR BREAKFAST BEFORE WE LEAVE!
ガチャ
CRRRRNG
PSSSSSHHH
JUST A LITTLE MORE AND WE'RE THERE

HOTTIE
OH MY!
SUUUUPER HOTTIE DETECTED!
HOTTIE ALERT! HOTTIE ALERT!
EEP.
OH, YES! A MEGA-HOTTIE OF THE FINEST CALIBER. MARK YOUR CALENDARS, PEOPLE, A LIMIT-BREAKING BEAUTY ENCOUNTERED ON OCTOBER 28TH, 1983. HERE, YOUR PUBLIC HOTTIE CERTIFICATION.
YOU FIND ME ATTRAC-TIVE?

NICE TRY, BUT I SEE RIGHT THROUGH YOU!
SHUFF SHUFF SHUFF
WHICH IS INFACT ADDRESSED TO KIRIGA MAKO PERSONALLY FROM SARUTOBI NIKUMARU!
AND SHE IS KIRIGA MAKO!
SO, THAT YOUNG MAN IS SARUTOBI NIKUMARU...
HMPH.
MAKO-CHAAAAN!
OOPS, ALMOST FORGOT SOMETHING IMPORTANT.
KAMIKAZE TECHNIIIQUE-

FWOOOOOOOO
FWAAH!
WE'RE GONNA BE LATE! LATE, I SAY!!
HEY, NIKUMARU! GET A MOVE ON, OR I'M LEAVING WITHOUT YOU.

TROT TROT TROT
WHAT'S THE HOLDUP? WAIT... YOU REALLY DON'T LOOK SO GOOD
HMGH
GRMH
BLRGH
たたたた！
CLOMP CLOMP CLOMP!
SEEMS YOU SLIPPED UP THERE...
KIKUMI...
DON'T FORGET, YOU AREN'T ALONE, KIKUNA...
I-I FEEL JUST HORRIBLE! WHY DOES IT ALWAYS TURN OUT THIS WAY!? WHAT EXACTLY IS WRONG WITH ME!?
GET A GRIP, KIKUNA! DON'T THRUST YOURSELF ON ME OUT IN PUBLIC!
BOUNCE

HAVEN'T YOUR BREASTS GROWN LARGER RECENTLY?
SPEAKING OF WHICH, KIKUMI
OH, HAVE YOU EVER CONSIDERED THEY RAN AWAY BECAUSE YOU'RE A FREAKING GUY WEARING A DRESS!?
OR MY PRISTINE PINK LIPS.
EL-EGANT WHITE SKIN,
MEN-TIONING MY LONG BLACK HAIR,
EVERYONE STARTS OUT THE SAME WAY TELLING ME THAT I'M PRETTY OR BEAUTIFUL
WHIMPERING
BUT THEY ALWAYS RUN AWAY
DID YOU JUST CALL ME A HOMO AND A CROSS-DRESSER AGAIN!? SOME PEOPLE WOULD REFER TO THAT AS SEXUAL DISCRIMI-NATION! I'M NOT THE ONE PRETENDING TO BE A GUY, MISTER PERVERT!
WHO'D WANNA BE FELT UP BY A NASTY HOMO CROSS-DRESSER!?
W-WELL EXCUSE ME FOR PAYING ATTENTION WHEN I TOUCH YOU.
Q-QUIT TRYING TO CHANGE THE SUBJECT, YOU FETISHIST!
PERVERT? THE ONLY DEVIANT HERE IS OBVIOUSLY YOU, KIKUNA!
FINE, WE'LL FINISH THIS AFTER OUR MISSION'S COMPLETE.
I MOTION FOR A TEMPORARY CEASE-FIRE...
HAHH
HUFF
AUGH
AHH
HRGH
GEH
MPH
NNGH
HOMO!
GUY WAN-NABE!
GAY-BOY!
LES-BIAN!
BETCHA HAVE AIDS!
SUPER-DYKE!

Sign: Principal's Office
校長室
SANADA KIKUMI.
SANADA KIKUNA.
...INDEED.
AS YOU CAN SEE... WE'RE TWIN SIBLINGS.
NATURALLY, THERE WILL BE SPECIFIC CONDITIONS APPLIED TO YOUR ENTRY.
IIII

PLEASE, COME IN.
KNOCK-KNOCK
コンコン
NEXT, THERE WILL BE AN APTITUDE TEST DESIGNED TO ASSESS YOUR ABILITIES!!
INCREDIBLE, THE TOZAWA'S ARE EXCEPTIONALLY PRESTRIGOUS...
APPARENTLY, THEY'VE ALREADY SUBMITTED A LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION FROM A MEMBER OF THE TOZAWA CLAN
HATTORI YUUICHIROU, WHAT SHE SAID.
KIRIGA MAKO, REQUESTING AUDIENCE.
A PLEASURE TO MEET YOU A SECOND TIME.
OH, I REMEMBER YOU.
OH, YOU'VE ALREADY MET...?
YOU WANT US TO PARTICIPATE IN THE APTITUDE TEST?
TODAY, WE'LL HAVE TWO HOPEFUL CANDIDATES CHALLENGING TWO MODERATELY EXPERIENCED STUDENTS.
CORRECT. I DON'T WANT ANOTHER INCIDENT UNFOLDING BETWEEN NIKUMARU AND OGATA-SENSEI, THEREFORE I CHOSE THE TWO OF YOU

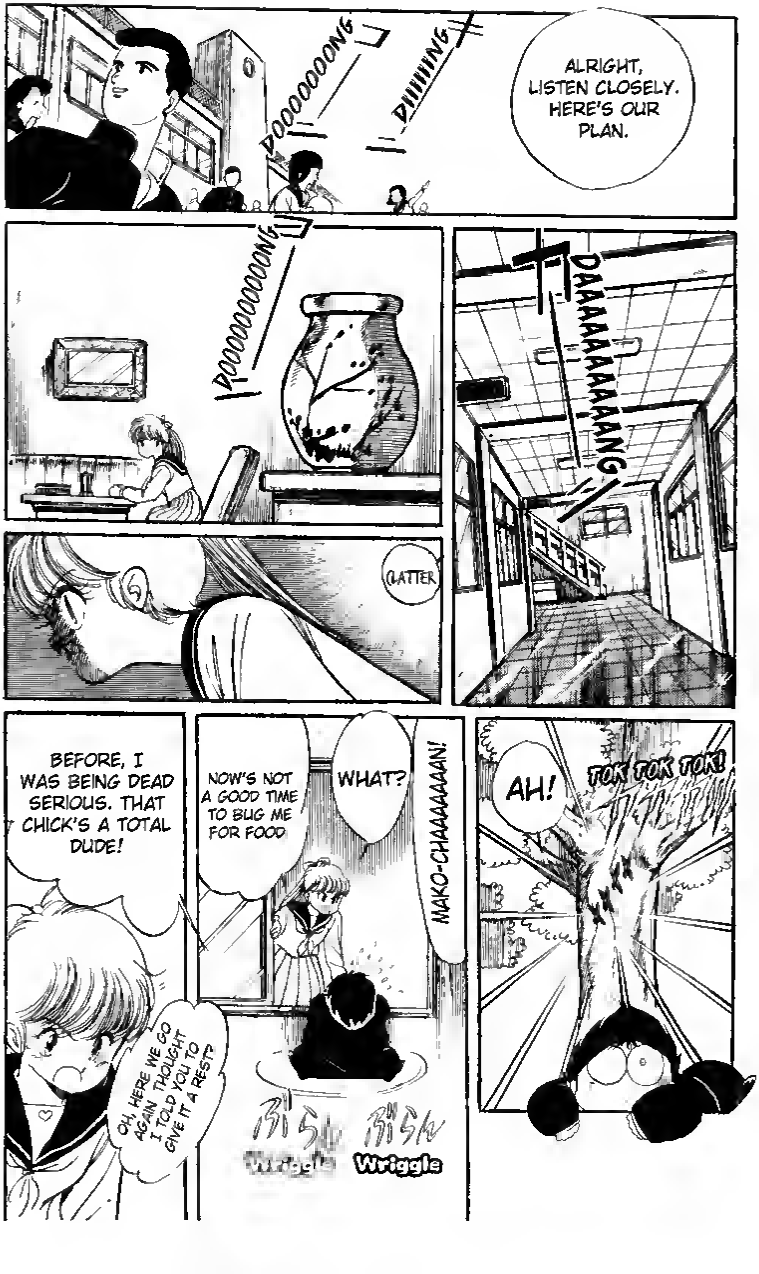
HEH, WELL PLAYED, PAPA!
BETWEEN US, I MADE SURE TO KEEP NIKUMARU OUT OF THIS SPECIFICALLY BECAUSE THERE'S A YOUNG LADY INVOLVED.
WHISPER WHISPER
I-I DON'T THINK I HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO BE AN EXAMINER, SIR PRINCIPAL!
S-SHOULDN'T YOU CH-CHOOSE SARUTOBI-SENPAI INSTEAD!?
GIVE YOURSELF SOME MORE CREDIT, SON I'M COUNTING ON YOU!
UNDERSTOOD LOUD AND CLEAR! HATTORI YUUCHIROU WILL STAKE HIS LIFE ON THE DUTY GRACIOUSLY GRANTED UPON HIM.
PLEASE WATCH OVER ME FROM THE HEAVENS, SENPAI.
HE'S STILL ALIVE, BONEHEAD!
VERY WELL, I'LL LEAVE THE SPECIFICS TO YOU, OGATA-KUN.
YES SIR.
WITHIN THE ACADEMY OF NINJAS, MANY SECRETS ARE HIDDEN AWAY. INCLUDING CRUCIAL DOCUMENTS!
SPIN
SPIN
CLANG
CLANG
CLANG

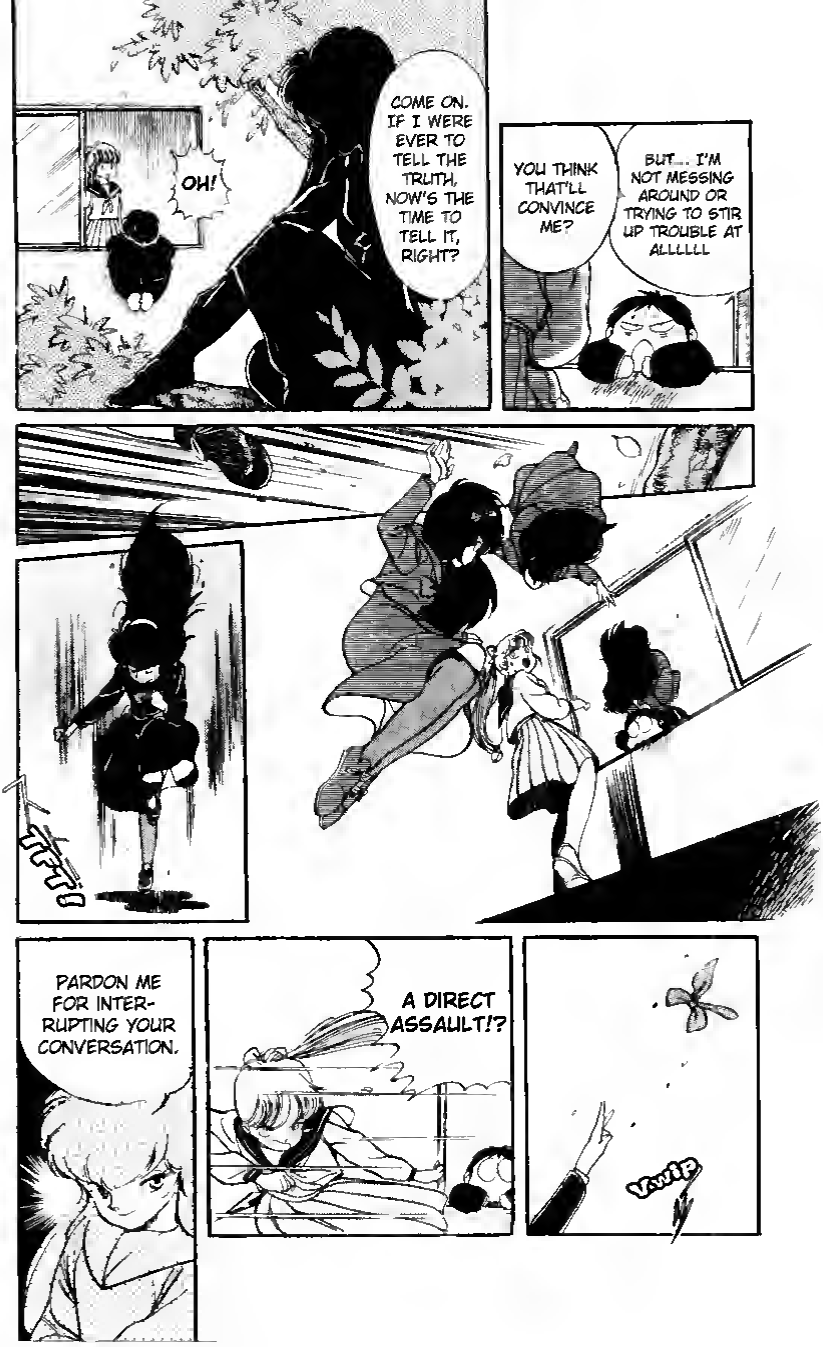
TWO CAPABLE GUARDS, DEFENDING THE OBJECTIVE WITH THE BEST OF THEIR ABILITIES!
ACTIVITY BEYOND SCHOOL PROPERTY IS FORBIDDEN.
THE TIME LIMIT IS PRECISELY SIX HOURS!
MOVING ALONG, WHAT SHALL PREVENT YOU FROM SIMPLY WALTZING IN AND SNATCHING THE SCROLL WELL BEFORE THE SIX HOUR LIMIT EXPIRES, YOU ASK?
THOSE ARE THE DETAILS OF THIS TEST!
Sign: Principal's Office
YEP! TODAY, I WON'T BE IN CLASS AT ALL, SO YOU'RE ON YOUR OWN.
TRANSFER STUDENTS?
WITH THE DIRECTION THINGS ARE HEADING, BOTH OF US MAY BE EXPOSED!
OF ALL THE STUDENTS THROUGHOUT THE SCHOOL, THE PRINCIPAL HAD TO CHOOSE KIRIGA-SAN, THE FRIEND OF, THAT PUDGY BUFFOON.
KIKUNA-SAN? WHAT ABOUT HER?
WAIT, I GOT SOMETHING YOU GOTTA KNOW ABOUT THAT GIRL WE MET THIS MORNING!
THAT "LADY" IS PACKING HEAT, IF YOU CATCH MY DRIFT.

MAKO-CHAAAAN!
NO, THIS TIME I'M TELLING THE TRUTH, I SWEAR!
DON'T EVEN START~ I'M GETTING SICK AND TIRED OF THE WEIRD LIES YOU PULL OUT OF THIN AIR AREN'T YOU JUST TRYING TO WORM YOUR WAY OUT OF LOOKING UP HER SKIRT THIS MORNING?
IF EVERYTHING PROCEEDS AS PLANNED, WE'VE GOT A HIGH CHANCE OF SUCCESS.
THANKS TO THOSE FAKE LETTERS, THE PRINCIPAL'S ON OUR SIDE. ACCOMPLISHING OUR DREAM ISN'T FAR OFF.
I'VE GOT EVERYTHING WORKED OUT
WITH ONE OF US PLAYING THE DECOY, THE OTHER WILL HAVE A LARGE WINDOW TO GRAB THE OBJECTIVE AND SNATCH THE SCROLL!
SOUNDS TOO EASY. ODDS ARE THE GUARDS WILL HAVE SET NUMEROUS TRAPS AS A FINAL DEFENCE
DON'T OVERTHINK IT.
WITH ANY LUCK, TODAY MAY POSSIBLY BE THE DAY WE CAN LAY OUR HANDS ON THE KASHIN FUUJIN-CHOU!*
HOWEVER, TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION THAT THE SCROLL WITHIN THAT VAULT MIGHT NOT BE THE INFORMATION WE REQUIRE TO COMPLETE OUR MISSION...

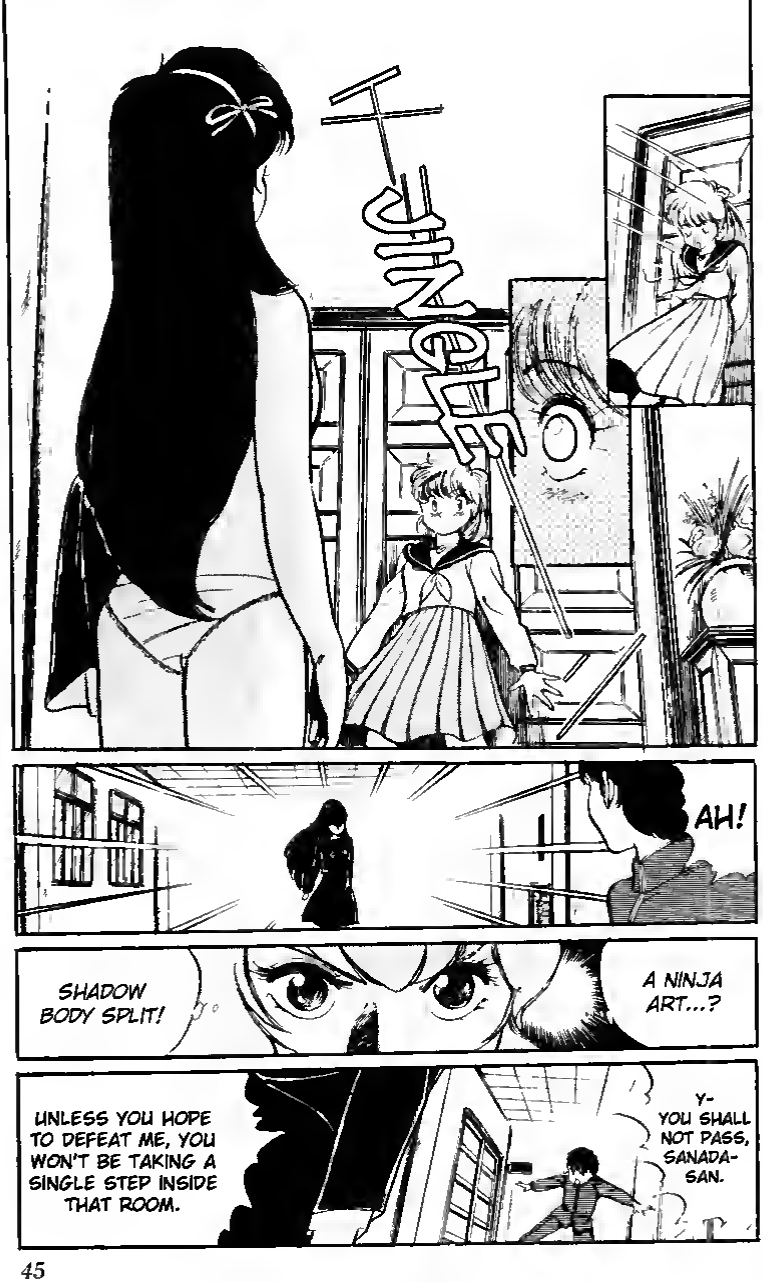
NOTE: THERE REALLY ISN'T A WAY TO TRANSLATE KASHIN FUUJINCHOU, SINCE IT'S A MADE UP TERM. DOING LITERALLY, THE BEST ONE CAN DO IS ABSOLUTE MENTAL PUST SCROLL. I'LL LEAVE WHAT IT IS UP TO YOUR IMAGINATION UNTIL IT'S REVEALED

RUSHING RECKLESSLY TOWARDS COMPLETING OUR MISSION WITHOUT PROPERLY INFILTRATING THE ACADEMY OF NINJAS AS STUDENTS WOULD BE FOOLHARDY. I BELIEVE WE SHOULD PASS THE TEST AND PROCEED AS STUDENTS RATHER THAN BANKING IT ALL ON ONE CHANCE, WOULDN'T YOU AGREE?
THE FIRST STEP IN ANY OPERATION IS FIRMLY PLANTING YOUR FEET AND INVESTIGATING THE SURROUNDING DETAILS WITH CAUTION AND ATTENTION TO DETAIL!
SURE, WHATEVER YOU SAY, KIKUNA. EVERYTHING'S BY THE BOOKS WITH YOU. ALWAYS MORE CONSIDERATE WITH THEORY THAN TAKING ACTION
Stupid homo..
KIKUMI!
EVEN YOU CAN UNDERSTAND WE'LL NEVER GET ANOTHER CHANCE LIKE THIS!
I'LL JUST DO THINGS MY OWN WAY, THEN!
DON'T YOU AGREE IT'S WISE TO LISTEN TO THE WORDS OF YOUR BROTHER, KIKUMI?
WHOA, WHOA, TIME OUT! FINE, WE'LL DO WHAT YOU WANT.
I'M SERIOUS!
OH, KIKUNA, YOU PUT A SMILE ON MY FACE.♡
FOR THE TIME BEING, I'LL HAVE TO PUT ON THE OBEDIENT ACT FOR THIS JERKWAD.
I HATE WORKING WITH HIM.


POOOOOONG
PIIIIING
ALRIGHT, LISTEN CLOSELY. HERE'S OUR PLAN.
POOOOOOONG
DAAAAAAAAAANG
CLATTER
BEFORE, I WAS BEING DEAD SERIOUS. THAT CHICK'S A TOTAL DUDE!
OH, HERE WE GO AGAIN THOUGHT I TOLD YOU TO GIVE IT A REST?
NOW'S NOT A GOOD TIME TO BUG ME FOR FOOD
WHAT?
MAKO-CHAAAAAAAN!
Wriggle
AH!
TOK! TOK! TOK!


OH!
COME ON. IF I WERE EVER TO TELL THE TRUTH, NOW'S THE TIME TO TELL IT, RIGHT?
YOU THINK THAT'LL CONVINCE ME?
BUT... I'M NOT MESSING AROUND OR TRYING TO STIR UP TROUBLE AT ALLLLL
ササッ
PARDON ME FOR INTER-RUPTING YOUR CONVERSATION.
A DIRECT ASSAULT!?
VWIP

?
FWOOSH!
RIGHT NOW!
LEAN!
RIGHT HERE.
THEREFORE, I'VE SELECTED YOU TO BE MY WITNESS, MISS EXAMINER. I THOUGHT YOU'D BE ABSOLUTELY PERFECT
CONSIDERING I'M ATTEMPTING TO ENTER THIS SCHOOL AS A PROPER STUDENT, I CAN'T HAVE SILLY RUMORS FLOATING AROUND THAT I'M NOT ACTUALLY A GIRL.
SKRRRFT
HM!?
WAAAAAAAAAAGH!
NOTHING YOU NEED TO WORRY ABOUT, HATTORI-KUN. HOW ABOUT YOU CHECK THE HALLS!?
ARE WE UNDER ATTACK, KIRIGA-SAN? WHAT SEEMS TO BE THE PROBLEM?


AH!
SHADOW BODY SPLIT!
A NINJA ART...?
UNLESS YOU HOPE TO DEFEAT ME, YOU WON'T BE TAKING A SINGLE STEP INSIDE THAT ROOM.
Y- YOU SHALL NOT PASS, SANADA-SAN.

JINGLE
RING
JINGLE
JINGLE
JINGLE
NOW, WATCH AS THE BELL GROWS IN SIZE AND WEIGHT.
JINGALING
RINGALING
AND AGAIN
EVEN FUR-THER.
JANGALANG
JINGLE
HEAVIER AND HEAVIER

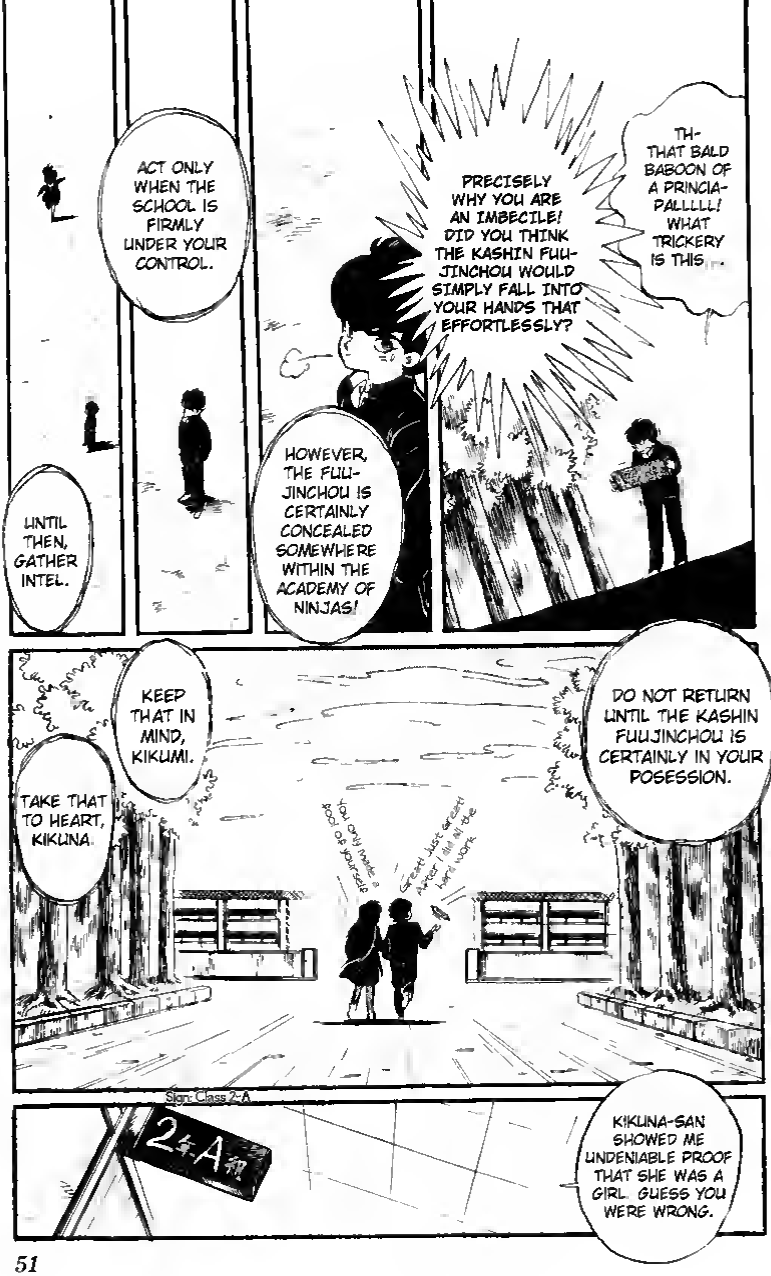
AS YOU CAN TELL FOR YOURSELF, THE BELL HAS BECOME INCREDIBLY LARGE AND HEFTY.
JINGLE
H-HOLY HAT, THIS THING IS A BEHEMOTH!
JINGLE
NOW IT'S TOO HEAVY FOR YOU TO WITHSTAND ITS INFINITE PRESSURE.
STRING
YAAAARGH!

RINGALING
KIKUMI. ARE YOU LISTENING? OPEN UP.
TONK TONK
KNOCK KNOCK
EVERYTHING'S CLEAR OUTSIDE LET ME IN THE OFFICE, KIKUMI

BWHOOOOOM
UGH, YOU'VE COMPROMISED EVERYTHING NOW, KIKU-MIIII!!

DON'T TAKE THIS THE WRONG WAY, KIKUNA. ONCE I DELIVER THIS SCROLL TO OUR MASTER, EVERYTHING WILL BE TAKEN CARE OF.
AGH!!
SHWAHSHWAHSHWAH
PRRRRRLLL
TOKTOKTOKTOK
WAGH!

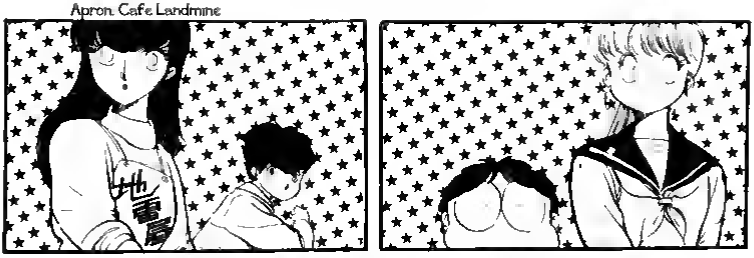
IMBE-
CILES!!
WHAT ON EARTH?
IS THIS YOUR IDEA...
OF THE KASHIN FUUJIN-CHOU!?
KIKUMI... MAYBE YOU SHOULD TAKE A CLOSER LOOK AT THE WORTHLESS SCRAP YOU ACTUALLY STOLE!
WHAT BLASPHEMY IS THIS!? I OBTAINED THE FUUJINCHOU, JUST AS YOU ORDERED!
M-MASTER...?
SHINOBI NINJA TACTICS GAME "QUEST"
START!
Caltrops
Frog
Poison
WHAT IS THIS THING!?

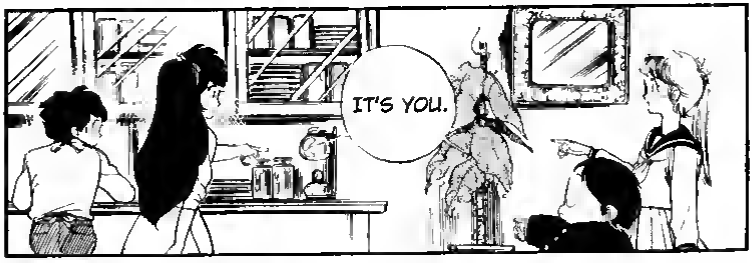

ACT ONLY WHEN THE SCHOOL IS FIRMLY UNDER YOUR CONTROL.
UNTIL THEN, GATHER INTEL.
HOWEVER, THE FUU-JINCHOU IS CERTAINLY CONCEALED SOMEWHERE WITHIN THE ACADEMY OF NINJAS!
PRECISELY WHY YOU ARE AN IMBECILE! DID YOU THINK THE KASHIN FUU-JINCHOU WOULD SIMPLY FALL INTO YOUR HANDS THAT EFFORTLESSLY?
TH-THAT BALD BABOON OF A PRINCIA-PALLLLL! WHAT TRICKERY IS THIS...
KEEP THAT IN MIND, KIKUMI.
TAKE THAT TO HEART, KIKUNA.
DO NOT RETURN UNTIL THE KASHIN FUUJINCHOU IS CERTAINLY IN YOUR POSESSION.
You only make a fool of yourself.
Geeeeh! Just accept it! I'm in the right!
Sign: Class 2-A
2-A
KIKUNA-SAN SHOWED ME UNDENIABLE PROOF THAT SHE WAS A GIRL. GUESS YOU WERE WRONG.

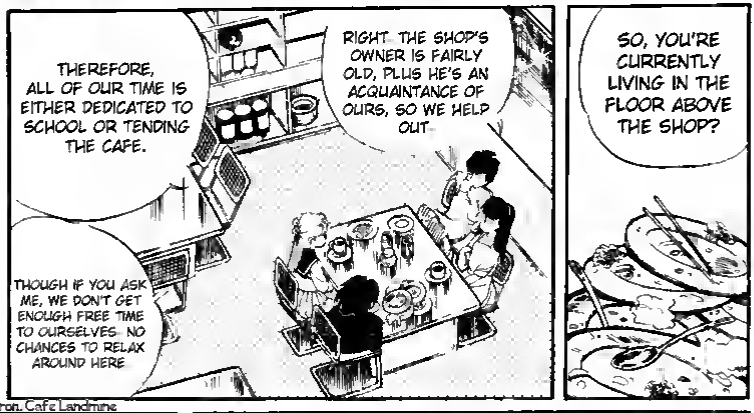
WOW, WE'RE EVEN IN THE SAME CLASS. WHAT LUCK♡
YO!
OH!
HEY, I'M A GIRL MYSELF. I THINK I CAN TELL WHO ELSE IS FEMALE, YOU DORK!
REAA-AALLY?
!!
ALRIGHT, NOW'S MY CHANCE TO CHECK OUT 'HER' UNDERCARRIAGE AND MAKE SURE I WASN'T SEEING THINGS
HEY, DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.. YOU HAD TO USE WHATEVER SKILLS YOU HAD TO PASS THE TEST. I'M NOT MAD AT ALL ♡
I APOLOGIZE FOR USING THAT STRANGE TECHNIQUE ON YOU THE OTHER DAY.
...
NOTHING TO SEE HERE, FOLKS. YOU CAN GET BACK TO YOUR BUSINESS, NOW!
KAAAAAAAMIIIIIIII-KAAAAAAAAZEE-EEEEEE

A Sinister Plan Set Into Motion

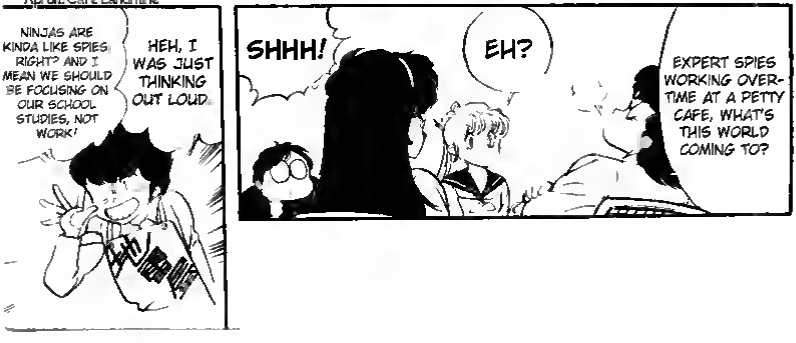
MY TUMMY GRUMBLES~
RUMBLE-MUMBLE.
Cafe Landmine
PLEASE, TAKE A SEAT. I'LL BE RIGHT WITH YOU.
LET'S CHECK THE PLACE OUT FOR A BIT.
YAHOO!
AH.
Cafe Landmine
SINCE WHEN DID THIS BUILDING TURN INTO A CAFE... ?






THEREFORE, ALL OF OUR TIME IS EITHER DEDICATED TO SCHOOL OR TENDING THE CAFE.
RIGHT. THE SHOP'S OWNER IS FAIRLY OLD, PLUS HE'S AN ACQUAINTANCE OF OURS, SO WE HELP OUT.
SO, YOU'RE CURRENTLY LIVING IN THE FLOOR ABOVE THE SHOP?
THOUGH IF YOU ASK ME, WE DON'T GET ENOUGH FREE TIME TO OURSELVES. NO CHANCES TO RELAX AROUND HERE.

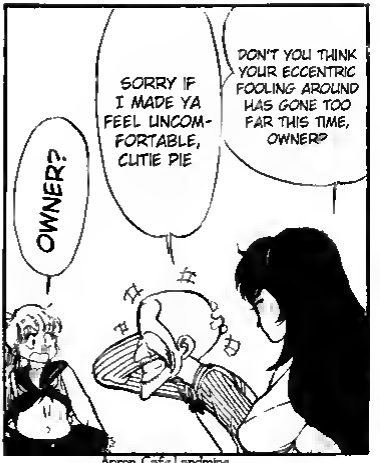
Apron Cafe Landmine


NINJAS ARE KINDA LIKE SPIES, RIGHT? AND I MEAN WE SHOULD BE FOCUSING ON OUR SCHOOL STUDIES, NOT WORK!
HEH, I WAS JUST THINKING OUT LOUD.
SHHH!
EH?
EXPERT SPIES WORKING OVERTIME AT A PETTY CAFE, WHAT'S THIS WORLD COMING TO?

HM?
HEHEHEH
EMPTYYYY
WHAT'S WRONG?
HMM?
MH!
DROP!!
EEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEK!
HOHO-HOHHH.

WHOA!
SLAM
HANDS TO YOURSELF, YOU CRAZY OLD PER-VERT!!
HMMMM!!

THOSE...
THOSE EYES... COULD THEY ACTUALLY...
ENOUGH WITH THE GAWKING, YOU'RE EMBARRASSING ALL OF US HERE!!
OWNER!?

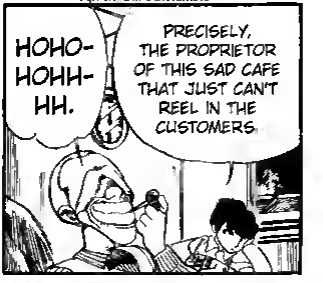

OWNER?
SORRY IF I MADE YA FEEL UNCOMFORTABLE, CUTIE PIE
DON'T YOU THINK YOUR ECCENTRIC FOOLING AROUND HAS GONE TOO FAR THIS TIME, OWNER?

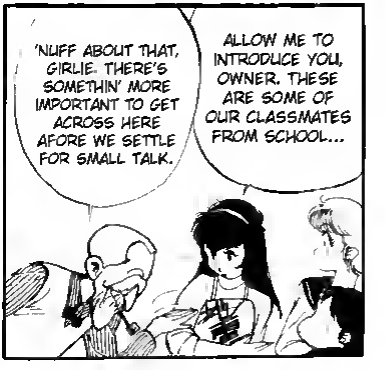
HOHOHOHHH, DID I NOW, WELL...
PLEASE BE MORE CONSIDERATE! YOU WERE STARING AT OUR CUSTOMER SO INTENSELY, I'M SURPRISED SHE DOESN'T HAVE A HOLE BURNT THROUGH HER FACE!!

Apron Cafe Landmine

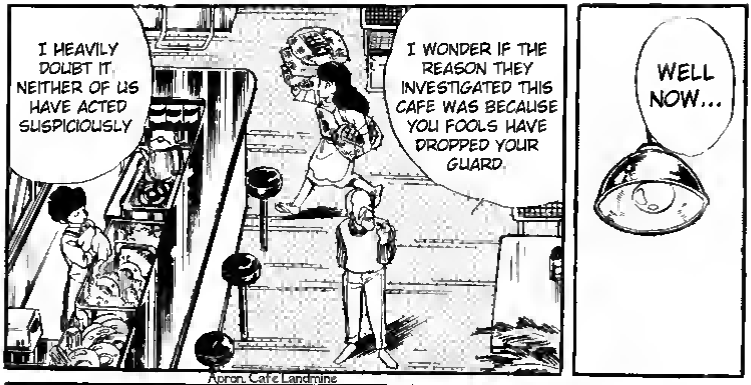
Apron Cafe Landmine

ENOUGH. STOP BADMOUTHING YOUR OWN SHOP!
IF I'M NOT MISTAKEN, EVEN WITH THE TWO OF YOU WORKIN' YER BUTTS OFF, THIS STORE STILL DON'T HAVE ANY CUSTOMERS NOW, AIN'T THAT RIGHT?




'NUFF ABOUT THAT, GIRLIE. THERE'S SOMETHIN' MORE IMPORTANT TO GET ACROSS HERE AFORE WE SETTLE FOR SMALL TALK.
ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE YOU, OWNER. THESE ARE SOME OF OUR CLASSMATES FROM SCHOOL...

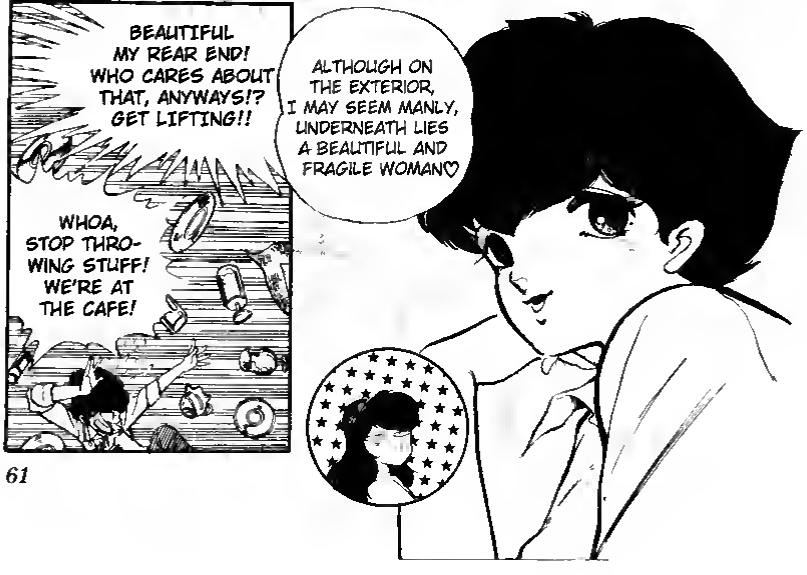
HMM.
SORRY FOR PRYING, BUT ARE YOU A FRIEND OF NIKUMARU-KUN'S GRANDFATHER?
HOHO-HOHH-HH.
INTERESTING. SARUTOBI HAPPOUSAI'S GRANDCHILD IN MY SHOP.
EH? BUT... HOW...?
NOT AT ALL.
...
CHALK IT UP TO THE SARUTOBI FAMILY BEING AN INFAMOUS HOUSEHOLD NAME IN OUR WORLD. HOHOHHH.
LISTEN, IF I KNEW HIM, THEN I'D SAY I KNOW HIM. BUT IF I SAY I DON'T, THEN I DEFINITELY DON'T.
THANK YOU FOR VISITING CAFE LANDMINE, PLEASE COME AGAIN!


I HEAVILY DOUBT IT. NEITHER OF US HAVE ACTED SUSPICIOUSLY
I WONDER IF THE REASON THEY INVESTIGATED THIS CAFE WAS BECAUSE YOU FOOLS HAVE DROPPED YOUR GUARD.
WELL NOW...

Apron Cafe Landmine

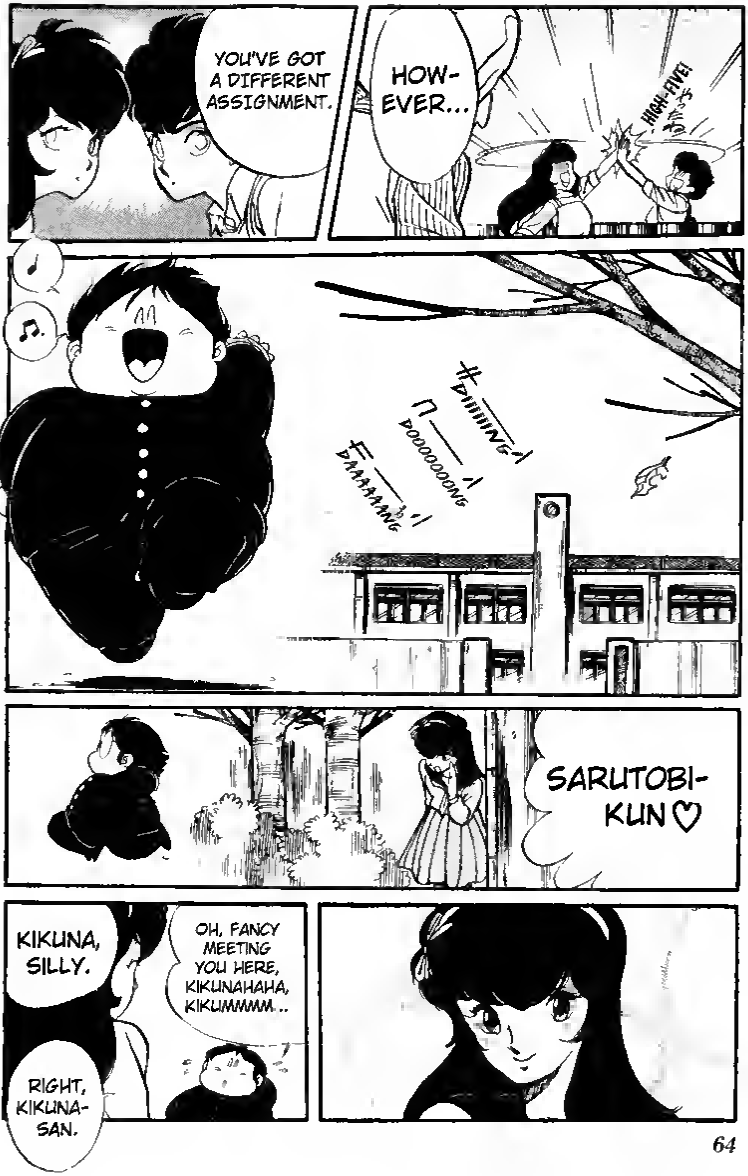
WHAT? AREN'T YOU PRETENDING TO BE A MAN? SHOW OFF YOUR STRENGTH, THEN!
NOT A CHANCE. PHYSICAL LABOR'S NOT MY GIG.
HELP WITH THE HEAVY LIFTING A BIT, KIKUMI-CHAN.
OWWW, MY MUSCLES ACHE.
TOO BAD.

Apron Cafe Landmine

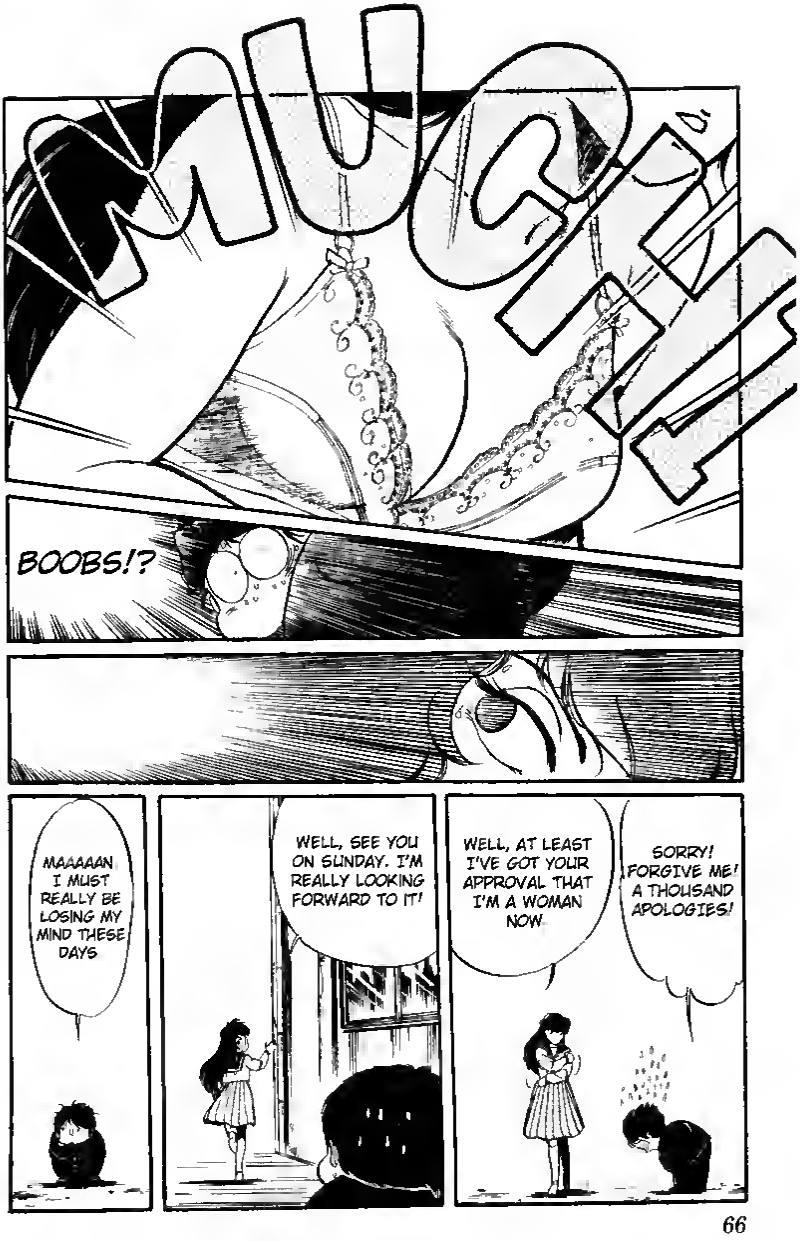

BEAUTIFUL MY REAR END! WHO CARES ABOUT THAT, ANYWAYS!? GET LIFTING!!
WHOA, STOP THROWING STUFF! WE'RE AT THE CAFE!
ALTHOUGH ON THE EXTERIOR, I MAY SEEM MANLY, UNDERNEATH LIES A BEAUTIFUL AND FRAGILE WOMAN♡

KIKUNA!!
GOOD-NESS ..
WHAT AN IMMATURE PAIR OF SIBLINGS...
Apron Cafe Landmine
W-WELL...
HAVE YOU EVER CONSIDERED FOCUSING YOUR ENERGY ON INVESTIGATING THE FUUJINCHOU RATHER THAN FIGHTING AMONGST EACH OTHER?
FOLLOWING THOUGH ON RUMORS PERTAINING TO THE FUUJINCHOU'S LOCATION SHOULD BE YOUR PRIMARY CONCERN
THUS FAR, YOUR PROBING HAS LED ABSOLUTELY NOWHERE
IMBE-CILES
ONE MONTH HAS PASSED, YET YOU ARE ENTIRELY LACKING RESULTS. HAVE YOU STARTED ENJOYING A CARE-FREE SCHOOL LIFE AND FORGOTTEN YOUR MISSION!?
Apron Cafe Landmine
SURE
SHOULD I GO AHEAD AND ASK HIM STRAIGHT OUT?
YOUR INCOMPETENCY GOES WITHOUT SAYING. MY DISAPPOINTMENT CONTINUES TO GROW EXPONENTIALLY!

HO-HOHHH.
CALL IT A GUARANTEED SCROLL-WRITTEN FORMULA FOR SEIZING CONTROL OF THE EARTH AS WE KNOW IT.
I DOUBT A SINGLE NIGHT WOULD BE SUFFICIENT TO PROPERLY EXPLAIN THE DETAILS..
HOWEVER, I WILL UNVEIL ONE CRUCIAL PIECE OF KNOWLEDGE.
YEAH, WE DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BE LOOKING FOR HERE.
PRECISELY WHAT IS THE KASHIN FUJINCHOU?
HMMM.
THE EARTH?
HOHOHOHHH. HOOOOHOHOHHH.
EH?
FOR REAL!?
MY APOLOGIES I REALIZE FORCING YOU INTO WASTING YOUR TIME RUNNING THE SHOP IS INTERFERING WITH CRITICAL TIME YOU COULD BE UTILIZING BETTER TOWARDS YOUR OBJECTIVES. STARTING TOMORROW, DON'T BOTHER TENDING THE SHOP.
KIKUNA! KIKUMI!
ULP!
YEP. HE'S JUST AN OLD FOGEY LOST IN HIS DEMENTIA. THIS IS PROBABLY JUST THE BEGINNING OF HIS MENTAL ISSUES, TOO.
PSST, KIKUMI-CHAN. DON'T YOU THINK THE OWNER'S..


YOU'VE GOT A DIFFERENT ASSIGNMENT.
HOW-EVER...
HIGH-FIVE!
♪
♫
PIIIIING!
DOOOOOONG
DAAAAANG
SARUTOBI-KUN♡
KIKUNA, SILLY.
OH, FANCY MEETING YOU HERE, KIKUNAHAHA, KIKUMMMM...
RIGHT, KIKUNA-SAN.

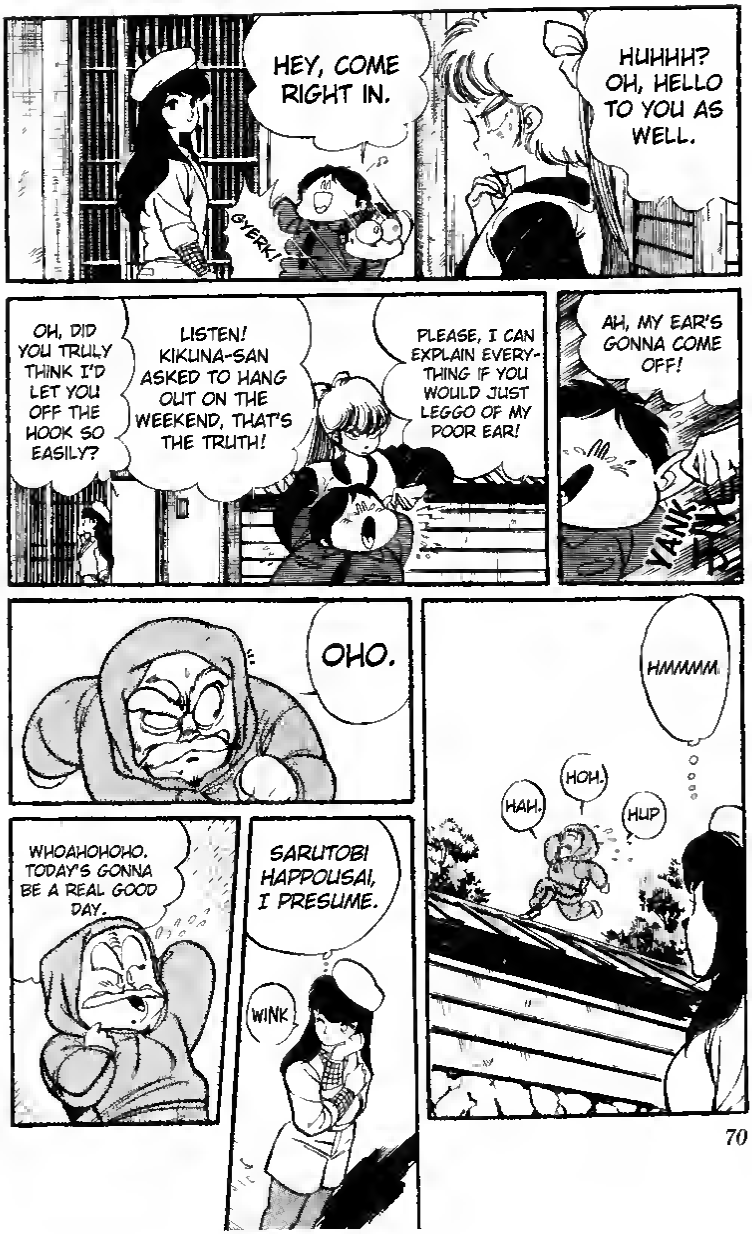
WAIT, YOU WANT TO COME OVER TO MY HOUSE ON SUNDAY?
SORRY FOR STOPPING YOU, BUT I'VE GOT A FAVOR I'D LIKE TO ASK OF YOU, SARUTOBI-KUN.
OH, WH-WHATEVER COULD YOU NEED?
...
SINCE YOU'RE THE SCHOOL'S NUMBER ONE, WOULDN'T THE BEST WAY OF IMPROVING MYSELF SIMPLY BE SPENDING TIME ALONE TOGETHER.♡
WH-WHY DO YOU WANT TO VISIT ME... ?
CAN I ASK YOU ONE THING?
WHAT IS IT?
PROMISE ME YOU WON'T TELL ANYBODY ABOUT WHAT I'M GOING TO ASK YOU!
SURE, NO PROBLEM.
KIKUNA-SAN, AREN'T YOU ACTU-ALLY...
A DUDE IN A DRESS!?
AH!
SHRRRRR


MUGEN
BOOBS!?
MAAAAAN I MUST REALLY BE LOSING MY MIND THESE DAYS
WELL, SEE YOU ON SUNDAY. I'M REALLY LOOKING FORWARD TO IT!
WELL, AT LEAST I'VE GOT YOUR APPROVAL THAT I'M A WOMAN NOW
SORRY! FORGIVE ME! A THOUSAND APOLOGIES!

FWHOOM
BAM!
ALRIGHT, NOW NEITHER OF THEM HAS ANY REASON TO DOUBT OUR PRESENTED GENDERS..
...
NICE WORK OUT THERE, KIKUMI-CHAN♡
I HATE THIS BODY!
I CAN'T BELIEVE I HAD TO SHOW OFF MY BREASTS TO THAT DISGUSTING MEATBALL.
KIKUMI-CHAN.
SHUNK
SLAM!
BOOM
WHAM
BASH
POUND
DON'T SAY SOMETHING SO CRUEL, KIKUMI-CHAN...
D-...
NO, YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND. JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE A HOMO WEARING WOMEN'S CLOTHING, DOESN'T MEAN YOU UNDERSTAND A WOMAN'S FEELINGS.
HITTING THE WALL ISN'T GONNA HELP. I UNDERSTAND YOUR PAIN, BUT SPIES HAVE TO REMAIN UNDERCOVER, NO MATTER WHAT.

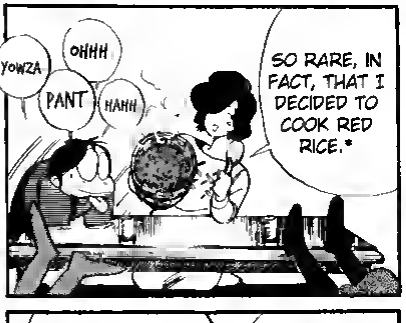
ALL WE CAN RELY ON IN THIS WORLD IS EACH OTHER, DON'T YOU GET THAT?
WE...
I WENT TOO FAR THERE.
UUUUH.
YOU'RE RIGHT, I'M SORRY.
...
GROPING MY BOOBS ISN'T HELPING!
Sunday

NIKUMARU-KUN'S JUST GONNA LOVE THIS HOMEMADE CAKE I MADE FOR HIM!
THANKFULLY, I EVEN USED LOW-CALORIE INGREDIENTS SO IF HE EATS THE WHOLE THING, IT WON'T BE THAT UNHEALTHY FOR HIM.
DINGDONG
OH.
A FINE DAY TO YOU, KIRIGA-SAN.♡

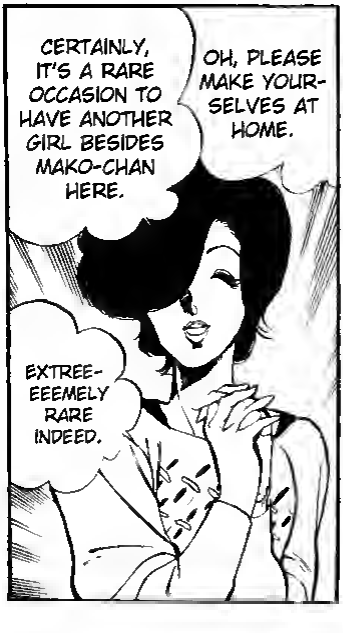

HEY, COME RIGHT IN.
GYERK!
HUHHH? OH, HELLO TO YOU AS WELL.
OH, DID YOU TRULY THINK I'D LET YOU OFF THE HOOK SO EASILY?
LISTEN! KIKUNA-SAN ASKED TO HANG OUT ON THE WEEKEND, THAT'S THE TRUTH!
PLEASE, I CAN EXPLAIN EVERY-THING IF YOU WOULD JUST LEGGO OF MY POOR EAR!
AH, MY EAR'S GONNA COME OFF!
YANK
OHO.
WHOAHOHOHO. TODAY'S GONNA BE A REAL GOOD DAY.
SARUTOBI HAPPOUSAI, I PRESUME.
WINK
HMMMM
HOH.
HAH.
HUP

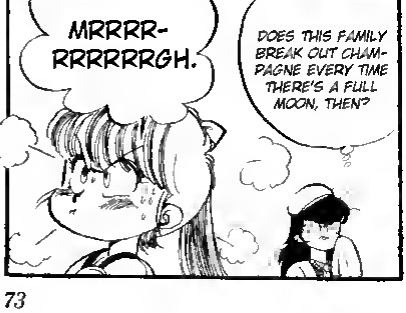
MY NAME IS SANADA KIKUNA PLEASURE TO MEET YOU.
OH, AREN'T YOU THE SWEETEST THING AROUND...
MAKO-CHAN, YOU'RE MAKING MOUNTAINS OUTTA MOLEHILLS AGAIN!
HM-MPH.
INHERITED THAT CHICK MAGNET GENE FROM YOUR GOOD-FOR-NOTHING FATHER, DIDJA!?
BAGGED ANOTHER ONE, EH!? NIKUMARU, YOU LUCKY PUNK!
AH!
HUH?
whisper whisper
...
SARUTOBI HAPPOUSAI IS NOT TO BE UNDER-ESTIMATED!
OH, IF I WAS ONLY FORTY YEARS YOUNGER, I'D ROCK HER WORLD...
CLOWN
HEY, CHICKIE, EVEN IF THOSE BOOBS WERE THE REAL DEAL, YOU'D BE MILES BEHIND MAKO-CHAN IN EVERY CATEGORY.

POK
SLURP
SLURP
THONK
DOK

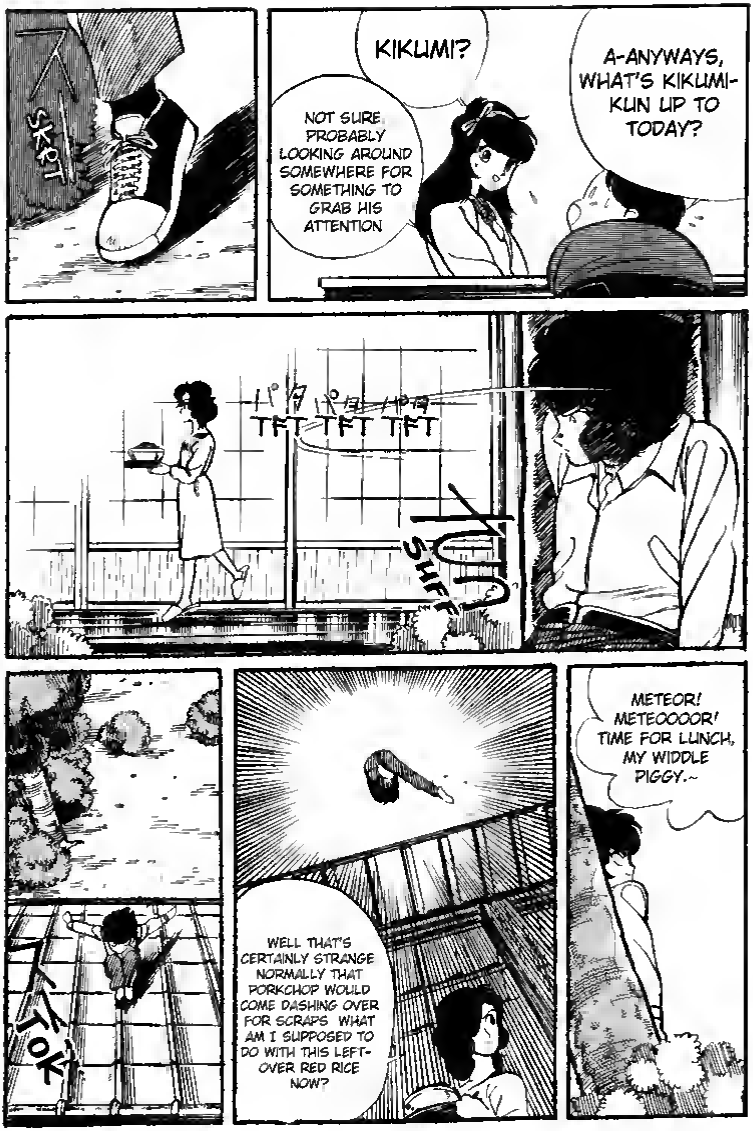


NOTE: RED RICE IS STRONGLY ASSOCIATED WITH CELEBRATIONS IN JAPAN. BIRTH DAYS, WEDDINGS AND CERTAIN HOLIDAYS HERE. KASUMI'S REALLY GOING OVERBOARD WITH CELEBRATING KIKUNA BEING THERE, HENCE THE JOKE.


OH, PLEASE MAKE YOURSELVES AT HOME.
CERTAINLY, IT'S A RARE OCCASION TO HAVE ANOTHER GIRL BESIDES MAKO-CHAN HERE.
EXTREEEEEMELY RARE INDEED.



NEVER COOKED RED RICE WHEN I COME OVER HERE. WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL?
EVEN MRS. SARUTOBI'S LOST IT... THIS IS SUPER LAME!
GULP
GRUMP
GOBBLE GOBBLE
GOBBLE
I'M HAPPY EATING ALONE!!
WHAT SEEMS TO BE THE PROBLEM, MAKO-CHAN? AREN'T YOU GOING TO JOIN US AT THE TABLE?
WOW, YOU BAKED A WHOLE CAKE FOR ME, MAKO-CHAN.♡
SMACK
HELL NO, I MADE THIS FOR MYSELF!
WASN'T GIVING ME THAT CAKE THE SPECIFIC REASON YOU CAME OVER TO MY PLACE?
UMMM... THIS IS JUST MERE SPECULATION, BUT...
HMPH!
CHOMP
CHOMP
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT, HONEY. JUST A LITTLE LOVERS' SPAT.
I'M SORRY THAT I'VE CAUSED SO MUCH TROUBLE FOR YOU.
JEEZ-LOU-ISE...
GROUCH!


SKRT
KIKUMI?
NOT SURE. PROBABLY LOOKING AROUND SOMEWHERE FOR SOMETHING TO GRAB HIS ATTENTION
A-ANYWAYS, WHAT'S KIKUMI-KUN UP TO TODAY?
TFT TFT TFT
SHIFT
METEOR! METEOOOOR! TIME FOR LUNCH, MY WIDDLE PIGGY.~
WELL THAT'S CERTAINLY STRANGE NORMALLY THAT PORKCHOP WOULD COME DASHING OVER FOR SCRAPS WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO WITH THIS LEFT-OVER RED RICE NOW?
OK

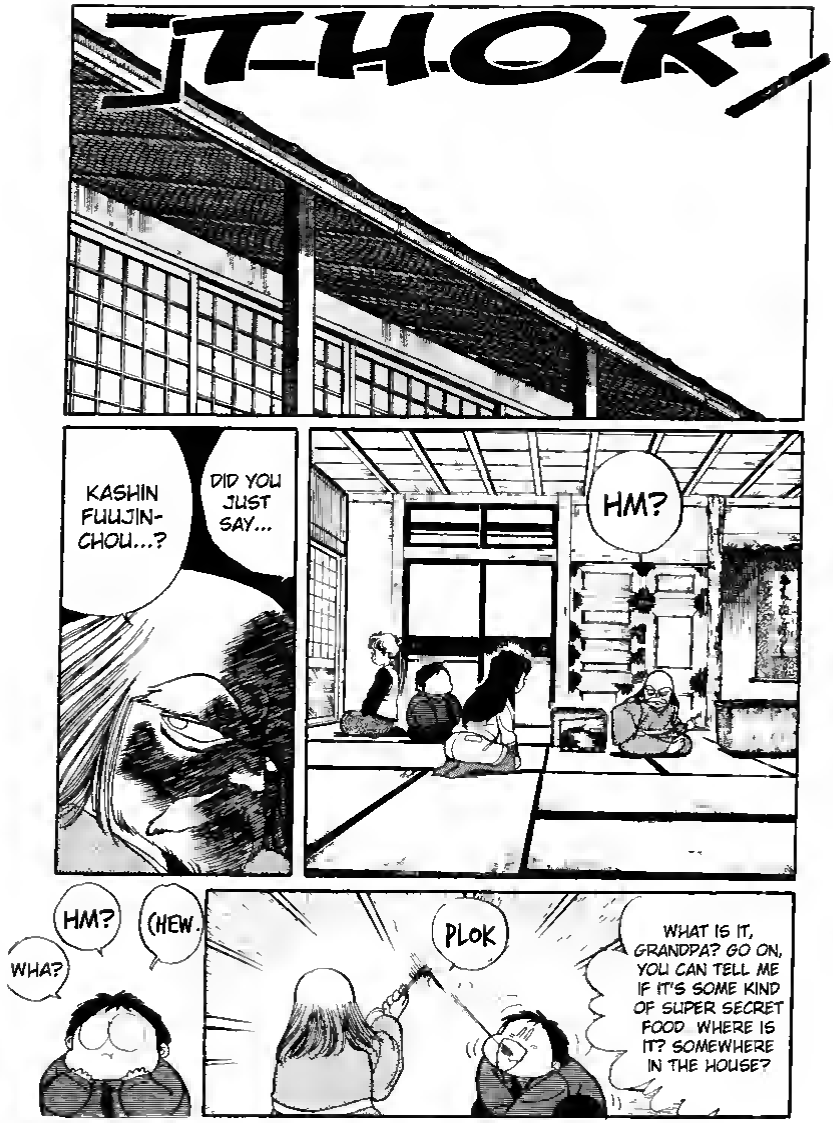
RIGHT, I BET THE SARUTOBI HOUSE HAS ALL SORTS OF INTERESTING AND WONDERFUL SCROLLS JUST LYING AROUND!
YOU MEAN SCROLLS AS IN A ROLLED UP PAPER LIKE THIS?
SCROLLS?
HMPH
HEY, ANYTHING TO HELP ME GET AHEAD IN CLASS IS SURE TO CATCH MY EYE OLD SCROLLS MIGHT HOLD POWERFUL SECRET NINJA ARTS AND WISDOM.
WHY ARE YOU SO OBSESSED WITH SCROLLS ALL OF A SUDDEN?
SMIRK...
THAT SOUNDS SWELL.♡
HMM, WELL, IN SITUATIONS LIKE THESE, IT'S BEST TO ASK GRANDPA HE KNOWS EVERYTHING ABOUT OLD AND DUSTY STUFF LIKE SCROLLS
ALWAYS GOOD TO SEE A KUNOICHI WITH A THIRST FOR KNOWLEDGE! DON'T GET 'EM MUCH ANYMORE, THESE DAYS!
OHO, EXCELLENT! BRAVO!

NOTE: THE BANSENSHUKAI IS A FAMOUS COLLECTION OF NINJA CULTURE TACTICS, AND PHILOSOPHY WRITTEN IN 1678 BY MEMBERS OF THE FUJIDAYASHI CLAN.
GOT MATERIAL DATING BACK TO THE BANSENSHUKAI, TONS OF STUFF ON THE KUSUNOKI NINJA STYLE, PRETTY MUCH A MINIATURE LIBRARY BURIED BACK HERE.*
JUST LEAVE IT TO OL' HAPPOUSAI.
CHEER UP, WOULDJA--
SORRY FOR BEING INTERESTED IN THINGS THAT AREN'T THREE CENTURIES OLD.
JUST A SEC!
JUST BE GLAD I HAVEN'T HAD TO USE IT FOR TOILET PAPER.
HOLY HAT! YOU'VE GOT EVERYTHING IN HERE!
ひさあ
THUNK
A TAD DIFFICULT? NONE OF THESE TERMS MAKE SENSE TODAY.
WOW...
EVERYTHING'S WRITTEN IN ARCHAIC JAPANESE, SO READING IT MIGHT BE A TAD DIFFICULT FOR YOU YOUNGSTERS
A SECRET DOCUMENT KNOWN ONLY AS THE KASHIN FUUJINCHOU? IT'S PARTICULARLY WHAT I'M INTERESTED IN, I'D LOVE TO LEARN ABOUT IT...
HAVE YOU HEARD OF...
THAT REMINDS ME...

WHILE KIKUNA'S GOT THE OLD MAN OCCUPIED...
FWHUMP
TIME TO EXPLORE THE DEEPER MYSTERIES OF THIS NINJA MANSION
OHO...
NOW THIS IS WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT!

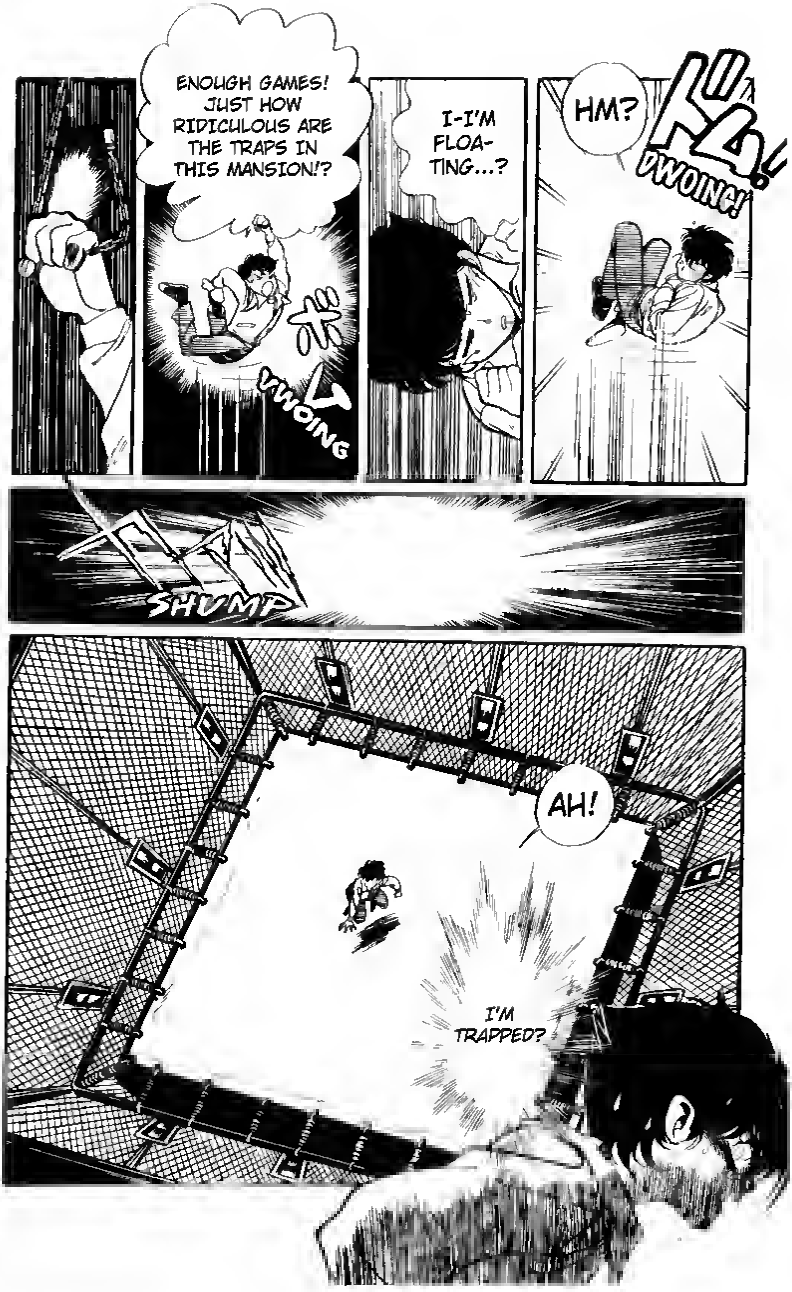
The Mystery of Kashin Fuujinchou

CHIAK
HUH?
EVERYTHING'S BLANKETED WITH DARKNESS DOWN HERE. HOW IS ANYBODY SUPPOSED TO FIND THEIR WAY AROUND... ?
WHAT THE HELL IS HAPPENING!?
TO BE CONTINUED

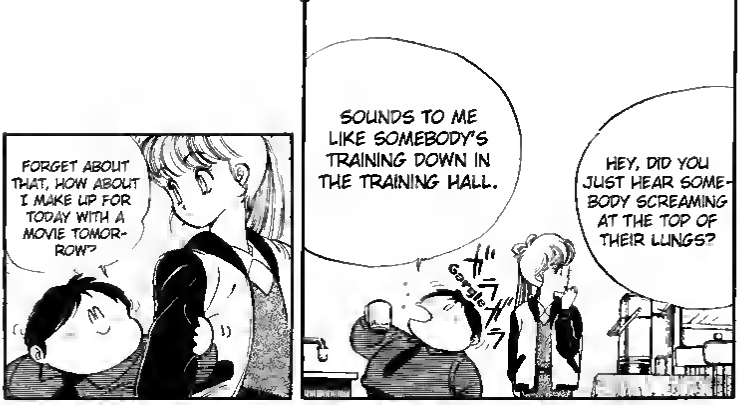

THOK
KASHIN FUUJIN-CHOU...?
DID YOU JUST SAY...
HM?
WHA?
HM?
(HEW.
PLOK
WHAT IS IT, GRANDPA? GO ON, YOU CAN TELL ME IF IT'S SOME KIND OF SUPER SECRET FOOD. WHERE IS IT? SOMEWHERE IN THE HOUSE?

IF YOU KNOW ANY SMALL DETAILS, THAT WOULD BE SPECTACULAR
PLEASE, SIR.
SMOKE STACK
HA-HHH-HHH
STUPID, STUPID, STUPIIIID!
YOU DON'T SAY!
TO BE FRANK, I'VE NEVER HEARD OF A NINJA SCROLL OR TECHNIQUE REFERRED TO BY THAT NAME
HOW SHOULD I PUT THIS...?
EVEN THOUGH I JUST SAID I'VE NEVER HEARD OF ANYTHING LIKE THAT, THE NAME "KASHIN" DEFINITELY RINGS A BELL OR TWO!
PLEASE FORGIVE ME FOR WASTING YOUR TIME OVER MY BORING PERSONAL DESIRES.
DON'T GIVE IN SO QUICK, YOUNG LADY.
WELL, IF THE PRESTIGOUS HAPPOUSAI-SENSEI HASN'T COME ACROSS SOMETHING, THAT ESSENTIALLY MEANS IT'S NOTHING MORE THAN A SILLY RUMOR

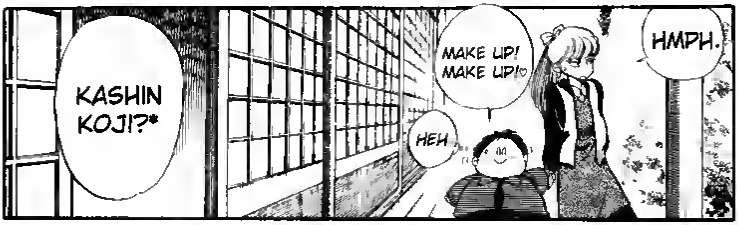
AGH!
SPLUSH
BWHOOOOOMPH

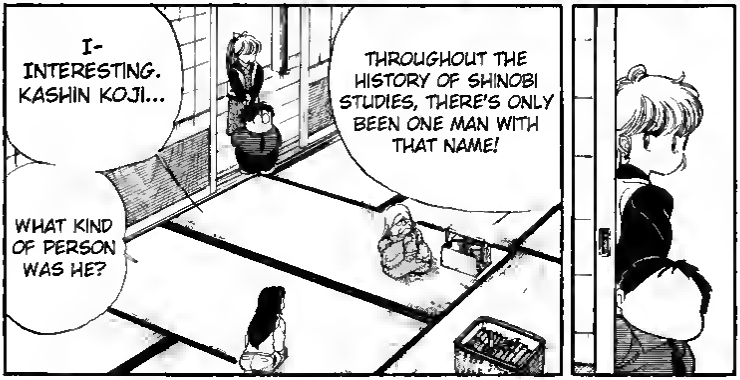

ENOUGH GAMES! JUST HOW RIDICULOUS ARE THE TRAPS IN THIS MANSION!?
VWOING
I-I'M FLOA-TING...?
HM?
KU
VWOING!
SHUMP
AH!
I'M TRAPPED?

BRRR


HEY, DID YOU JUST HEAR SOMEBODY SCREAMING AT THE TOP OF THEIR LUNGS?
SOUNDS TO ME LIKE SOMEBODY'S TRAINING DOWN IN THE TRAINING HALL.
Gargle
FORGET ABOUT THAT, HOW ABOUT I MAKE UP FOR TODAY WITH A MOVIE TOMORROW?

NOTE: DOING A BIT OF RESEARCH UNVEILED THAT KASHIN KOJI APPEARS TO BE A HISTORICAL CHARACTER. JAPAN'S WIKIPEDIA REVEALS HE WAS A POWERFUL USER OF THE DECEPTIVE ARTS.



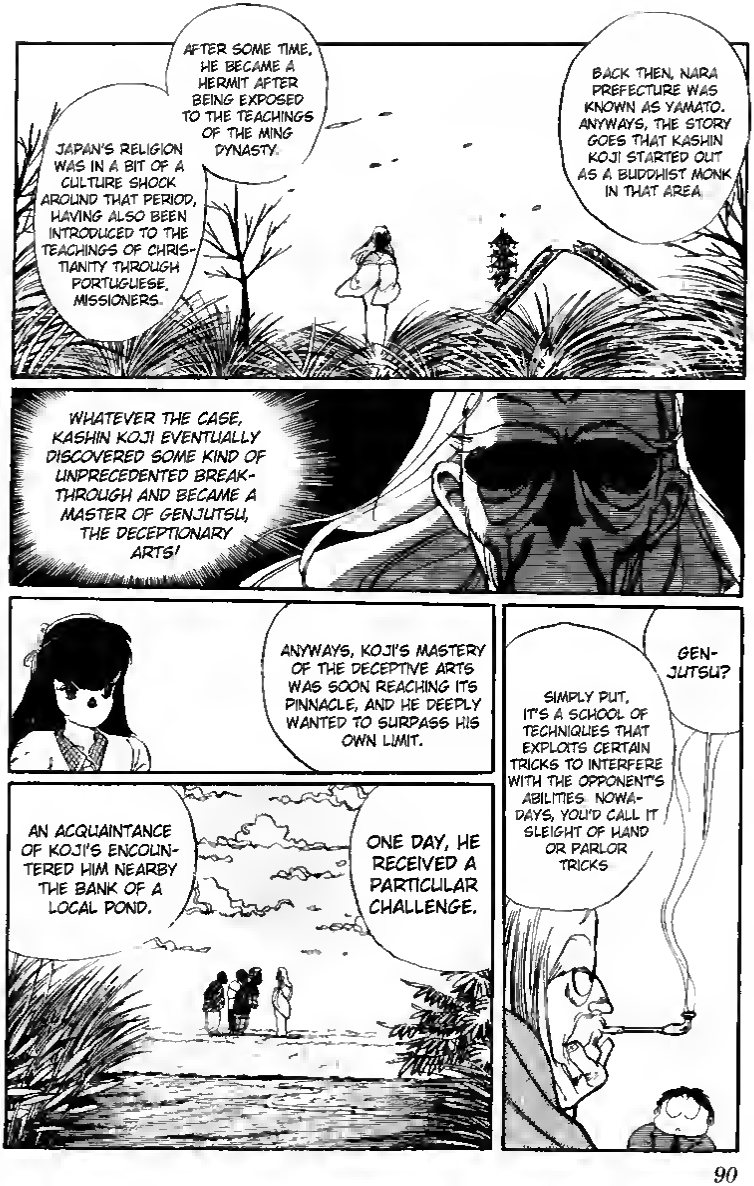

I-INTERESTING. KASHIN KOJI...
THROUGHOUT THE HISTORY OF SHINOBI STUDIES, THERE'S ONLY BEEN ONE MAN WITH THAT NAME!
WHAT KIND OF PERSON WAS HE?

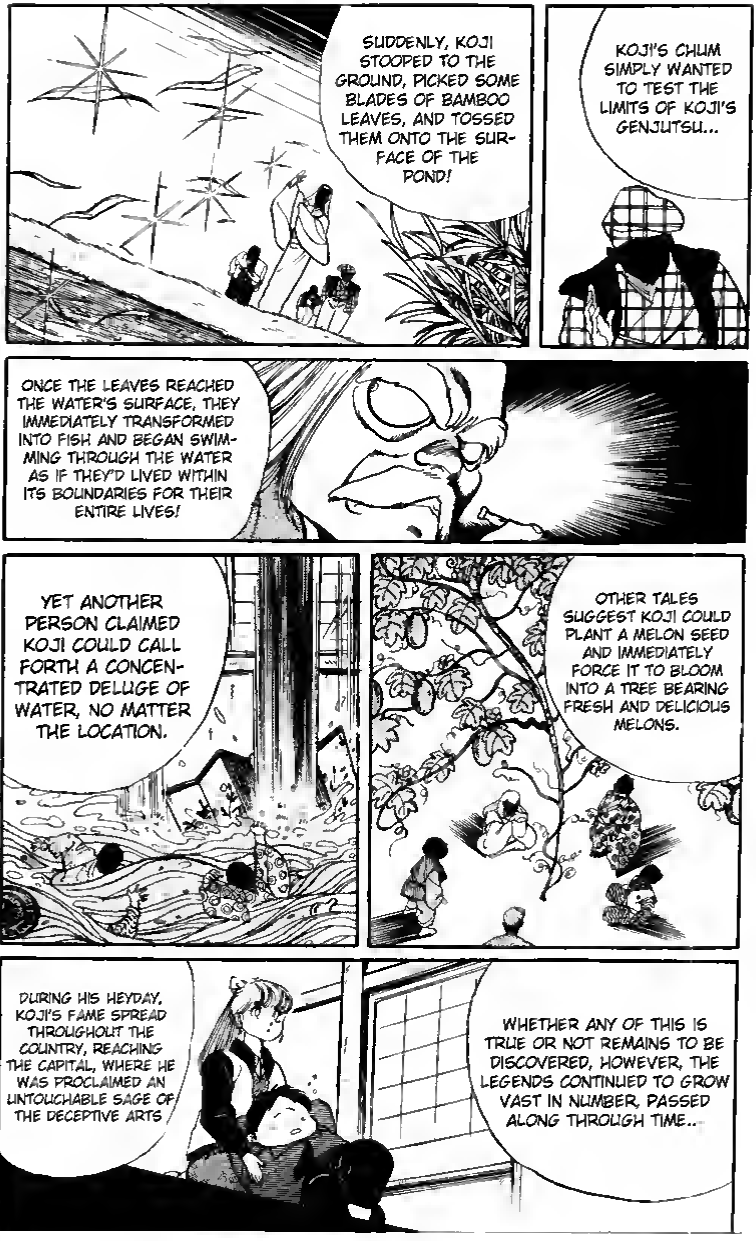
NEVER HEARD OF THAT GUY, GRANDPA!
ME EITHER.
HONESTLY, ANY SELF-RESPECTING STUDENT OF THE ACADEMY OF NINJAS SHOULD BE ABLE TO WRITE A SHORT ESSAY ON THE MAN WITHOUT BREAKING A SWEAT...
AH!!
OH? SO, YOU DON'T KNOW ABOUT HIM EITHER

OH, DEAR BUDDHA! HOW ON EARTH HAVE THESE TWO SURVIVED THROUGH HIGH SCHOOL!?
Does he mean us the term actually...
What the heck's a Kashin Koji anyway? Can I be one?
HOW EMBARASSING... TO THINK THEY'VE BEEN AT THE ACADEMY LONGER THAN I HAVE
PUSHING
MOVING ALONG, I'LL SPEAK ABOUT KASHIN KOJI!
PHWOK PHWOK PHWOK PHWOK PHWOK PHWOK PHWOK
PHEW!
BOM

HUP.
ZWOOOOM
DOKDOKDOKDOKDOK
FREEING MYSELF OF THIS CAGE REQUIRES THE USAGE OF THE TRAMPOLINE, BUT GETTING HIT WITH THE BALLS IMMEDIATELY STOPS ALL PROGRESS...
WHOEVER THOUGHT UP THIS FOUL JOKE OF A TRAP NEEDS TO DIE.
THERE'S JUST NO CHANCE TO GAIN MOMENTUM BEFORE GETTING NAILED.
TWONK
TWONK
NOT MY FACE!
HOWEVER, IT'S ALL A MATTER OF REFLEXES!!
VWIP
SLIP AROUND THE VOLLEY, LIKE A STRAY SHEET OF PAPER...

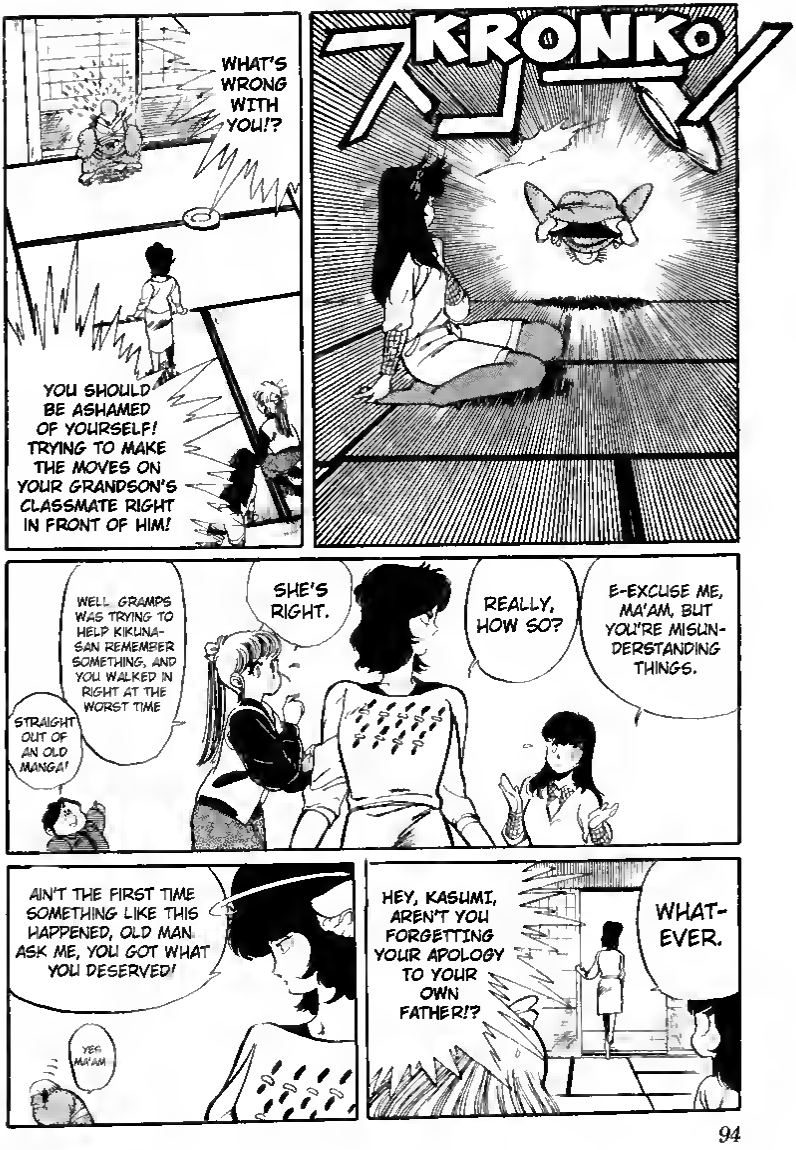
BOM
DAMM-ITALL!
CRAP, I'M GONNA GET HIT AGAIN. STOP BOUNCING! STOP, I SAID!
BOING
BOING
BOING
FLOMP
NGH!!
APPROXIMATELY FOUR HUNDRED YEARS AGO, SMACK DAB IN THE SENGOKU ERA. ENTIRELY CERTAIN THERE WAS A MAN THAT FIT THE BILL DURING THAT PERIOD OF TIME.
PRETTY SURE HE WAS BORN AND RAISED WITHIN JAPAN.

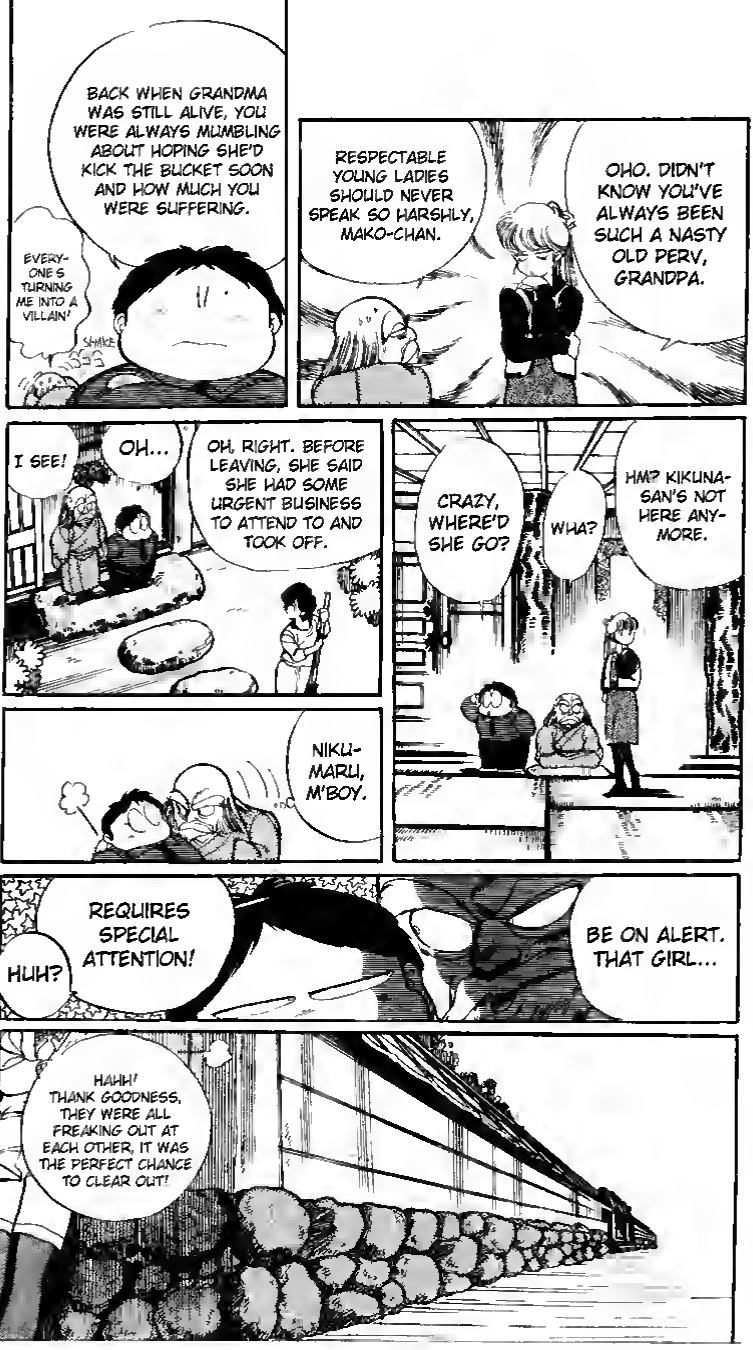

BACK THEN, NARA PREFECTURE WAS KNOWN AS YAMATO. ANYWAYS, THE STORY GOES THAT KASHIN KOJI STARTED OUT AS A BUDDHIST MONK IN THAT AREA.
AFTER SOME TIME, HE BECAME A HERMIT AFTER BEING EXPOSED TO THE TEACHINGS OF THE MING DYNASTY.
JAPAN'S RELIGION WAS IN A BIT OF A CULTURE SHOCK AROUND THAT PERIOD, HAVING ALSO BEEN INTRODUCED TO THE TEACHINGS OF CHRISTIANITY THROUGH PORTUGUESE MISSIONERS.
WHATEVER THE CASE, KASHIN KOJI EVENTUALLY DISCOVERED SOME KIND OF UNPRECEDENTED BREAKTHROUGH AND BECAME A MASTER OF GENJUTSU, THE DECEPTIONARY ARTS!
GENJUTSU?
SIMPLY PUT, IT'S A SCHOOL OF TECHNIQUES THAT EXPLOITS CERTAIN TRICKS TO INTERFERE WITH THE OPPONENT'S ABILITIES. NOWADAYS, YOU'D CALL IT SLEIGHT OF HAND OR PARLOR TRICKS
ANYWAYS, KOJI'S MASTERY OF THE DECEPTIVE ARTS WAS SOON REACHING ITS PINNACLE, AND HE DEEPLY WANTED TO SURPASS HIS OWN LIMIT.
ONE DAY, HE RECEIVED A PARTICULAR CHALLENGE.
AN ACQUAINTANCE OF KOJI'S ENCOUNTERED HIM NEARBY THE BANK OF A LOCAL POND.


SUDDENLY, KOJI STOOPED TO THE GROUND, PICKED SOME BLADES OF BAMBOO LEAVES, AND TOSSED THEM ONTO THE SURFACE OF THE POND!
KOJI'S CHUM SIMPLY WANTED TO TEST THE LIMITS OF KOJI'S GENJUTSU...
ONCE THE LEAVES REACHED THE WATER'S SURFACE, THEY IMMEDIATELY TRANSFORMED INTO FISH AND BEGAN SWIMMING THROUGH THE WATER AS IF THEY'D LIVED WITHIN ITS BOUNDARIES FOR THEIR ENTIRE LIVES!
YET ANOTHER PERSON CLAIMED KOJI COULD CALL FORTH A CONCENTRATED DELUGE OF WATER, NO MATTER THE LOCATION.
OTHER TALES SUGGEST KOJI COULD PLANT A MELON SEED AND IMMEDIATELY FORCE IT TO BLOOM INTO A TREE BEARING FRESH AND DELICIOUS MELONS.
DURING HIS HEYDAY, KOJI'S FAME SPREAD THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY, REACHING THE CAPITAL, WHERE HE WAS PROCLAIMED AN UNTOUCHABLE SAGE OF THE DECEPTIVE ARTS
WHETHER ANY OF THIS IS TRUE OR NOT REMAINS TO BE DISCOVERED, HOWEVER, THE LEGENDS CONTINUED TO GROW VAST IN NUMBER, PASSED ALONG THROUGH TIME...

SOUNDS EERILY SIMILAR TO THE BIZARRE TECHNIQUE KIKUNA USED DURING HER ENTRANCE EXAM...
NOW WATCH AS THE BELL GROWS IN SIZE AND WEIGHT
JINGALING
EVERYTHING MATCHES UP WITH THE TYPE OF TECHNIQUES NIKUMARU'S GRANDPA DESCRIBED.
DECEPTION...
BY THE WAY, WHERE'D YOU HEAR ABOUT IT?
PERSONALLY, I'D SAY HE DIDN'T DO A HALF-BAD JOB MAKING HIS MARK ON HISTORY...
KOJI'S NAME BECAME WELL-KNOWN THROUGH SUCH LEGENDS
THAT'S THE GIST OF IT.

JUDGING FROM THE NAMING, IT SOUNDS LIKE A DOCUMENT THAT'S CLOSELY LINKED TO EITHER KOJI HIMSELF OR HIS TEACHINGS.
THE KASHIN FUUJIN-CHOU.
SORRY, ABOUT WHAT?
KIKUNA-CHAN... TELL ME WHAT YOU KNOW ABOUT THE FUUJINCHOU!
START WITH MINOR DETAILS! WHO'D YOU HEAR THE NAME FROM IN THE FIRST PLACE, MY DEAR?
YET, IF ONE EXISTED, IT COULD CREATE A HUGE BOOM IN SHINOBI HISTORY
BEFORE I CROAK, I'D LOVE TO LAY MY EYES ON IT AT LEAST ONCE!
THE NATURAL CONCLUSION WOULD BE THAT KASHIN KOJI RECORDED THE SECRETS TO HIS INCREDIBLE TECHNIQUES OF DECEPTION!
LIKELY WITH THE PURPOSE OF DEVELOPING SUCCESSORS AND DEVOTED FOLLOWERS TO HIS TRADE HOWEVER, SUCH A DOCUMENT HAS NEVER BEEN MENTIONED THROUGHOUT HISTORY
COME NOW, TRY AND PICTURE THE TIME AND PLACE YOU READ AOBUT IT. OR DO YOU WANT TO MISS OUT ON YOUR BIG CHANCE TO BE FAMOUS!?
UNFORTUNATELY, I DON'T REMEMBER WHICH ONES
NOBODY TOLD ME ABOUT IT, I'VE JUST HEARD IT MENTIONED HERE AND THERE IN CERTAIN SCROLLS AND DOCUMENTS...
COME NOW, I KNOW YOU'VE GOT IT IN YA! YOU CAN TRUST AN OLD MAN, RIGHT?
I'M TERRIBLY SORRY TO DISAPPOINT YOU, BUT I JUST CAN'T...
DAAAAAD!


WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU!?
YOU SHOULD BE ASHAMED OF YOURSELF! TRYING TO MAKE THE MOVES ON YOUR GRANDSON'S CLASSMATE RIGHT IN FRONT OF HIM!
KRONK
WELL, GRAMPS WAS TRYING TO HELP KIKUNA-SAN REMEMBER SOMETHING, AND YOU WALKED IN RIGHT AT THE WORST TIME
STRAIGHT OUT OF AN OLD MANGA!
SHE'S RIGHT.
REALLY, HOW SO?
E-EXCUSE ME, MA'AM, BUT YOU'RE MISUN-DERSTANDING THINGS.
AIN'T THE FIRST TIME SOMETHING LIKE THIS HAPPENED, OLD MAN. ASK ME, YOU GOT WHAT YOU DESERVED!
YES MA'AM
HEY, KASUMI, AREN'T YOU FORGETTING YOUR APOLOGY TO YOUR OWN FATHER!?
WHAT-EVER.


BACK WHEN GRANDMA WAS STILL ALIVE, YOU WERE ALWAYS MUMBLING ABOUT HOPING SHE'D KICK THE BUCKET SOON AND HOW MUCH YOU WERE SUFFERING.
EVERY-ONE'S TURNING ME INTO A VILLAIN!
SHRIKE
RESPECTABLE YOUNG LADIES SHOULD NEVER SPEAK SO HARSHLY, MAKO-CHAN.
OHO. DIDN'T KNOW YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN SUCH A NASTY OLD PERV, GRANDPA.
I SEE!
OH...
OH, RIGHT. BEFORE LEAVING, SHE SAID SHE HAD SOME URGENT BUSINESS TO ATTEND TO AND TOOK OFF.
CRAZY, WHERE'D SHE GO?
WHA?
HM? KIKUNA-SAN'S NOT HERE ANY-MORE.
NIKU-MARU, M'BOY.
HUH?
REQUIRES SPECIAL ATTENTION!
BE ON ALERT. THAT GIRL...
HAHH! THANK GOODNESS, THEY WERE ALL FREAKING OUT AT EACH OTHER, IT WAS THE PERFECT CHANCE TO CLEAR OUT!

SERIOUSLY, THAT OLD MAN WAS TOO PUSHY FOR MY LIKING
UNFORTUNATELY, DIDN'T LEARN A WHOLE LOT TODAY. PLUS, HE NEVER SHUT UP, EXACTLY LIKE OUR MASTER.
KIKUNAAAA
THWUMP
KYAAAAAHHH!
KIKUMI-CHAN...!?
WH-WHAT ON EARTH HAPPENED TO YOU? WERE YOU TORTURED BY SOMEONE?
KIKU-NAAAAA..
HM?
I FINALLY UNDER-STAND...
WHAT DO YOU MEAN UNDER-STAND?
DOES THAT MEAN YOU FIGURED OUT HOW TO LOCATE THE FULI-JINCHOU?
IF SOMEONE TRAINED THEM-SELVES WITHIN THAT INTOLERABLE PRISON EVERY SINGLE DAY, THEY'D BECOME INVINCIBLE.
WOULD EXPLAIN HOW THAT MONSTROUS MEATBALL'S PRETTY MUCH UNBEATABLE. A HUMAN ABLE TO MASTER REFLEXES AND MOVEMENT SPEED TO THAT DEGREE WOULD SIMPLY AVOID ANY-THING THE OPPONENT MIGHT SEND HIS WAY!

ARTS, HUH...?
DECEP-TIONARY
WHAT?
STAY WITH ME!
NO! KIKUMI-CHAN, WAKE UP!
JUST TALKING ALOUD!
NOTHING
HM?
I WAS BETTING ON THE CHANCE THAT HE'D PULL THROUGH, MAKING IT SEEM PERFECTLY LEGITI-MATE ON MY END, WHILE SIMULTANE-OUSLY TEARING BOTH OF YOU APART WITH HIS OWN TWO HANDS.
NO! NOT IN THE SLIGHT-EST.
DID YOU ACTUALLY RIG THE OUTCOME SO THAT NIKUMARU-KUN WOULD DEFINITELY WIN AND BE FORCED INTO TAKING THE OVERSEAS TRIP?
BACK DURING THE SCHOOL-WIDE WAR-GAMES...
HEY, MAMA, THERE'S BEEN SOMETHING I'VE BEEN MEANING TO ASK YOU FOR QUITE AWHILE.
GO AHEAD.

IT BRINGS BACK AWFUL MEMORIES.
BUT I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF THAT TOPIC.
HOW EVILLLL!
WHENEVER WE HOLD HANDS, HIS GRIP FEELS SO KIND AND GENTLE.
ALTHOUGH HE'S SO STRONG...
CONSIDERING HE STILL HAS ROOM TO GROW, HIS POTENTIAL IS RIDICULOUS
I DEFINITELY AGREE. HE'S A RESILIENT CHILD
THAT MEANS NIKUMARU-KUN REALLY IS INSANELY POWERFUL....
WAIT.
HEH... GUESS I REALLY AM GLAD NIKUMARU-KUN DIDN'T TAKE THE OVERSEAS TRIP IN THE END.
MAKO...
...
SO... I'VE DECIDED... I...
BUT AFTERWARDS, I WAS JUST ANGRY WITH MYSELF. DISGUSTED THAT I WAS SO FAR BEHIND NIKUMARU-KUN'S PROGRESS AS A NINJA!!
AT FIRST, ALL I COULD THINK ABOUT WAS HOW UPSET I WAS THAT YOU ORCHESTRATED THE ENTIRE THING, MAMA.
EVEN TO THE POINT WHERE SAYING GOODBYE ALMOST CRUSHED MY HEART TO PIECES...
BACK THEN, I HONESTLY DIDN'T WANT TO BE SEPERATED FROM NIKUMARU-KUN FOR SO LONG...

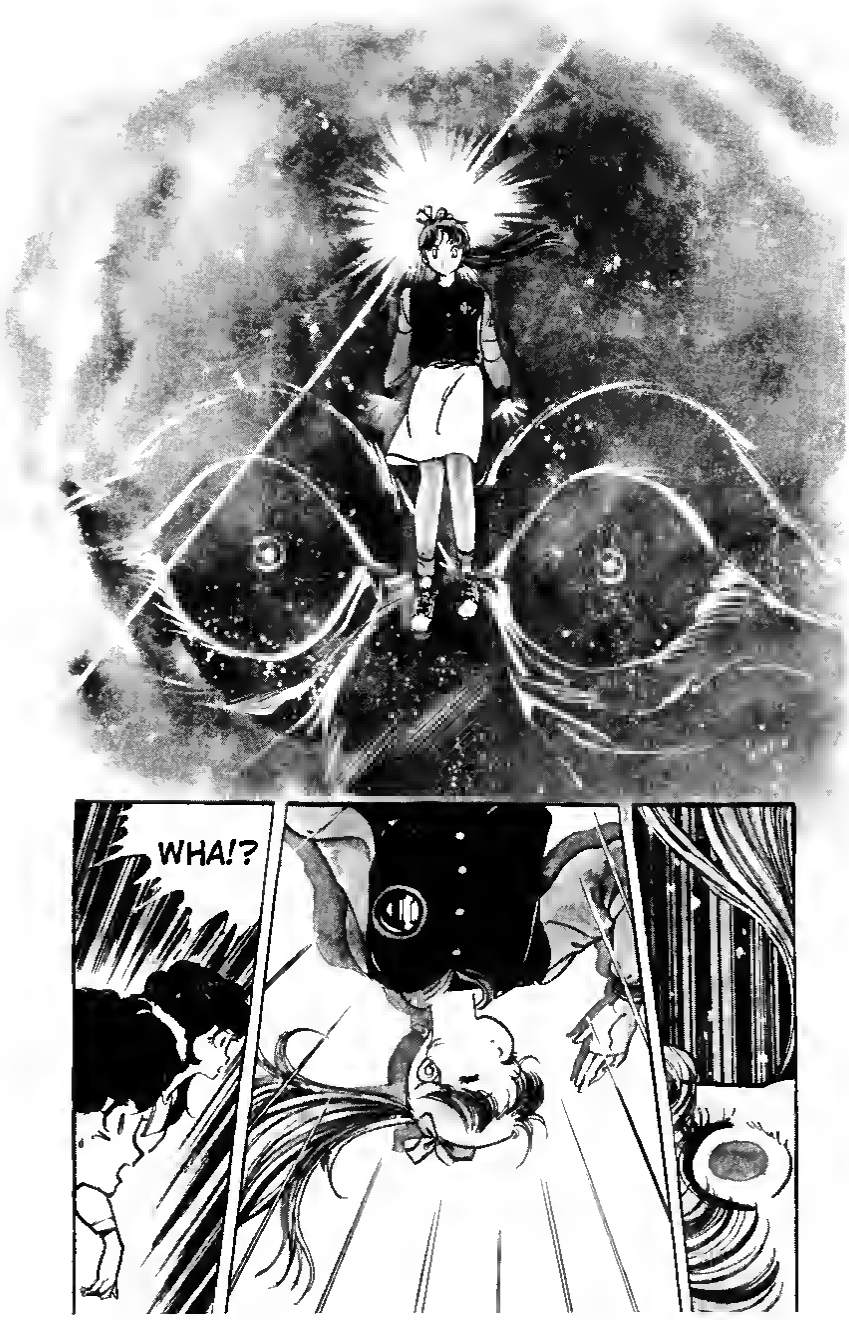
I ABSOLUTELY HAVE TO BECOME STRONGER!
UNTIL I CATCH UP WITH NIKUMARU-KUN!
Sign. Cafe Landmine
HOHO-HOHHH.
DISAPPOINTINGLY, FOR ALL THE NON-SENSE WE PUT UP WITH, THE OLD CREEP COULDN'T TELL ME ANYTHING WORTH-WHILE...
OHO, SO HAPPOUSAI SUDDENLY GOT PUSHY ABOUT THE SUBJECT, EH?
Apron. Cafe Landmine
JUST WHEN I THOUGHT I WAS ONTO SOMETHING HUGE, KIKUNA GOES AHEAD AND STEALS THE SHOW WHILE I SUFFER FOR HOURS ON END. FUNNY HOW THAT WORKS OUT, ISN'T IT?
HOPE THAT SLY FOGEY'S PLEASED WITH HIM-SELF.
SURPRISED I DIDN'T DIE DOWN THERE...

ULP!
PLEASE, HAVE A SE-...
CLATTER
THANKFULLY, I DOUBT HE HAD ANY SUSPICIONS TOWARDS OUR TRUE MOTIVE FOR BEING THERE.
I HAVE A REQUEST FOR THE TWO OF YOU, IF YOU'D BE SO KIND TO GRANT IT.
KIKUNA-SAN. KIKUMI-KUN
KIRIGA-SAN!
EHE...
HERE GOES NOTHING.
WOULD YOU MIND SHOWING ME THOSE PECULIAR TECHNIQUES OF YOURS?
HOH HOH HOHHHH.

Mako's Transformation

WAIT, YOU WANT US TO SHOW YOU OUR TECHNIQUES?!
EHH-HH?
WELL, NIKUMARU-KUN WOULD JUST HOLD BACK HIS ABILITIES SINCE I'M THE ONE ASKING... KNOW WHAT I MEAN?
UMMM...
HONESTLY, IF YOU'RE INTERESTED IN IMPROVING YOUR REPERTOIRE OF TECHNIQUES, TRY ASKING YOUR BOYFRIEND SARUTOBI-KUN. I THOUGHT THAT WOULD BE YOUR FIRST
I'M NOT SURE I FOLLOW WHERE YOU'RE GOING WITH THIS, KIRIGA-SAN.
HONESTLY, THAT TECHNIQUE YOU USED REALLY LEFT A BIG IMPRESSION ON ME. I COULDN'T STOP THINKING ABOUT HOW GREAT IT WORKED
Y-YOU MIGHT BE RIGHT. SHE COULD JUST BE PUTTING UP A FRONT, WAITING FOR THE PERFECT OPPORTUNITY TO PIN US DOWN AS THE CULPRITS
H-HANG ON, IS SHE TRYING TO TRICK US INTO BREAKING OUR COVER? AFTER WHAT HAPPENED YESTERDAY, I'M QUITE WORRIED!
RIGHT, NIKUMARU'S GRANDPA HAD AN ACTUAL NAME FOR IT.
STRANGELY, I'VE ALMOST BECOME FASCINATED WITH IT.

GEN-JUTSU... I BELIEVE THAT'S WHAT HE CALLED IT.
YOUNG LADY.
DO ME ONE FAVOR, LOOK INTO MY EYES...
KEEP YOUR FOCUS DIRECTLY UPON MY EYES!
THAT'S IT.
O-OWNER, PLEASE REFRAIN FROM ANY UNUSUAL BEHAVIOR.
SILENCE, YOU NOISY IMBECILES!
PIERRE


WHA!?

WORRY NOT...
SHE SIMPLY FELL UNCONSCIOUS THROUGH MY HYPNOSIS.
WHEEZING
WHEEZING
WHEEZING
WHEEZING
J-JUST GREAT, I KNEW YOU WERE UP TO SOMETHING, MASTER!
STAY BACK!
NEVER IN A THOUSAND YEARS WOULD I HAVE EXPECTED TO ENCOUNTER IT HERE OF ALL PLACES!
HEAVY BREATHING
HEAVY BREATHING
MASTER...?
A DEMONIC EYE!
COMING INTO THE LINE OF SIGHT OF A WIELDER OF THE CRYSTAL EYE IS ENOUGH TO PARALYZE THE TARGET SIMILAR TO THE MYTHICAL GORGON'S EYE BUT THAT IS ONLY ONE OF ITS MANY USES.
KIRIGA MAKO IS TRULY TERRIFYING TO POSSESS IT!
CRYSTAL... WHAT, MASTER?
A GENETIC PHENOMENON THAT MANIFESTS ONCE IN EVERY THOUSAND, NO EVERY TEN THOUSAND HUMANS BORN...
THE CRYSTAL EYE!

THIS YOUNG WOMAN...
COULD BE THE GREATEST GENJUTSU USER BORN IN THE LAST CENTURY!
SHE'S LATE...
P-P-PEEEP
5:00
PAGE

WONDER WHAT'S TAKING SO LONG. MAKO-CHAN'S USUALLY RIGHT ON TIME...
DON'T WORRY, I'LL TAKE A LOOK AROUND AND SEE IF I CAN TRACK HER DOWN.
DASH
WAIT, YOU'RE SAYING MAKO-CHAN HASN'T COME HOME EVEN ONCE SINCE SHE LEFT EARLIER?
HAVEN'T SEEN HER MYSELF SINCE THIS MORNING
STRANGE, I WAS UNDER THE IMPRESSION SHE WOULD BE WITH YOU ALL DAY LONG, NIKUMARU-KUN
HM?
MAKO-CHAN!
MAKO!

RIGHT NOW, I'M COMPLETELY EXHAUSTED. I'D APPRECIATE IT VERY MUCH IF I COULD JUST LIE DOWN AND REST.
WHERE ON EARTH HAVE YOU BEEN, YOUNG LADY? AND WHAT WERE YOU THINKING, COMING HOME THIS LATE?
I FIND IT VERY HARD TO BELIEVE YOU'D STAND UP NIKUMARU-KUN ON A DATE UNLESS YOU HAD A VERY GOOD REASON.
...I'M SORRY.
MAKO-CHAN!
MAKO-CHAN'S EYES ARE NEVER MUDDY AND UN-FOCUSED LIKE THAT!
SOME-THING'S WRONG
WAIT, MAKO!
MAKO!

HISSSS
HISSSS
HISSSS
MAKO-CHAN'S EYES ARE NEVER MUDDY AND UNFOCUSED LIKE THAT!
!
REOW-RRR...
RAWWWWRRRR
ROLL
RAWWWWRRRR
REOWWW

GRRAWWWRRR...
RRRRRRAWWWWRR
WHAT'S WITH THE RACKET? CATS ARE JUST GOING MENTAL OUT THERE, SOMEBODY NEEDS TO LAY OFF THE CATNIP.
WEEEWWWWWRRR
MEEEOW...
GRRAWRRR
MYAAAAAW...
MEAWMEW
NRRRGH
DAAAAAING
VOOOOOOOM
VIIIIIIING

HER EYES WERE FREAKING ME OUT, TOO...
ガタン
MAKO-CHAN'S NEVER MISSED OUT ON A DATE EVER BEFORE...
SOMETHING'S FISHIER THAN A SUSHI BAR LATELY.
GASP!
NI-KU-MARU-KUUUUN♡
EH?
UMM, MAKO-CHAN.
WHAT IS IT?
MAKO-CHAN...
GOTCHA PRETTY GOOD. EARLY MORNING SURPRISES WAKE UP THE BRAIN REALLY NICELY!
WAKE UP, SLEEPYHEAD!
STOOOOOP, I WAS ALREADY AWAKE!
ALRIGHT, MISTER! I'M GONNA TEACH YOU A LESSON ABOUT WHY YOU SHOULDN'T COME TO SCHOOL UNTIL YOUR BRAIN'S CLEAR OUTTA DREAMLAND!
ARE YOU THE REAL MAKO-CHAN...?
MAKO-CHAN...

KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK.
A PLEASANT MORNING TO YOU, KIRIGA-SAN ♡
KEEPING UP WITH MY GRADES, WHAT ELSE?
WHAT WAS THAT ABOUT?
WHY, OF COURSE!
ALRIGHT, NO TIME TO LOSE! LET'S MOVE IT!
BOOF
HM?
RIGHT THEN, WHAT SAY WE HEAD HOME, MAKO-CHAN?
MAKO-CHAN?
AFTER-SCHOOL..
SEEMS SHE'S BACK ON TRACK TODAY.
GUESS I'M MISINTER-PRETING THINGS.
DAAAANG
DOOOONG
DIIIING

RIGHT! COME TO THINK OF IT, SHE WAS WALKING TOGETHER WITH THOSE FREAKY TWIN TRANSFER STUDENTS.
LOOKING FOR MAKO? SAW HER BOOK IT OUT OF CLASS THE MOMENT THE BELL WENT OFF.
HUH?
WHERE ON EARTH WAS MAKO HURRYING OFF TO THE MOMENT SCHOOL ENDED?
UMMM, MAKO-CHAN.
AND THE FOLLOWING DAY TOO.
THIS HAPPENED THE NEXT DAY.
ALRIGHT, HOW ABOUT FINALLY SEEING THAT MOVIE WE WERE SUPPOSED TO CHECK OUT LAST WEEKEND?
THERE'S NO REASON WHY I'M DOING THAT...
D-DON'T LET IT BOTHER YOU...
HM?
RECENTLY YOU HAVEN'T BEEN WASTING ANY TIME LEAVING SCHOOL THE SECOND CLASSES ARE OVER

...
SORRY, I'M GONNA HAVE TO TAKE ANOTHER RAIN CHECK TODAY'S A BUSY DAY FOR ME AGAIN
Apron Cafe Landmine
WEL-LLL.
UHHH...
EH?
Sign Cafe Landmine
UMMM, JUST TRYING TO FIND MAKO-CHAN HAVE YOU SEEN HER BY CHANCE?
SARUTOBI-KUN, WHAT A PLEASURE TO HAVE YOU VISIT THE CAFE AGAIN♡
PLEASE, HAVE A SEAT.
SO, SHE DIDN'T WALK HOME WITH YOU OR KIKUMI TODAY?
SORRY, I HAVEN'T SEEN HER AT ALL TODAY.
O-OH... RIGHT, THEY HAD SOME IMPORTANT BUSINESS TODAY.
BY THE WAY, WHERE'S KIKUMI-KUN AND THAT KOOKY OLD OWNER TODAY?
PERHAPS YOU'RE SIMPLY MISTAKEN
EH? WITH US? THAT'S NEVER HAPPENED BEFORE

SORRY, YOUR ORDER WAS?
BE ON ALERT. THAT GIRL... REQUIRES SPECIAL ATTENTION!
HAVE YOU DECIDED ON WHAT YOU'D LIKE TO ORDER?
HMM-MM
FWWWWWOOOOOOORRRRRRRRRRMMMMMMMM
KYAAAAAAAHHH!
A DOUBLE HELPING OF KAMIKAZE TECHNIQUE!!

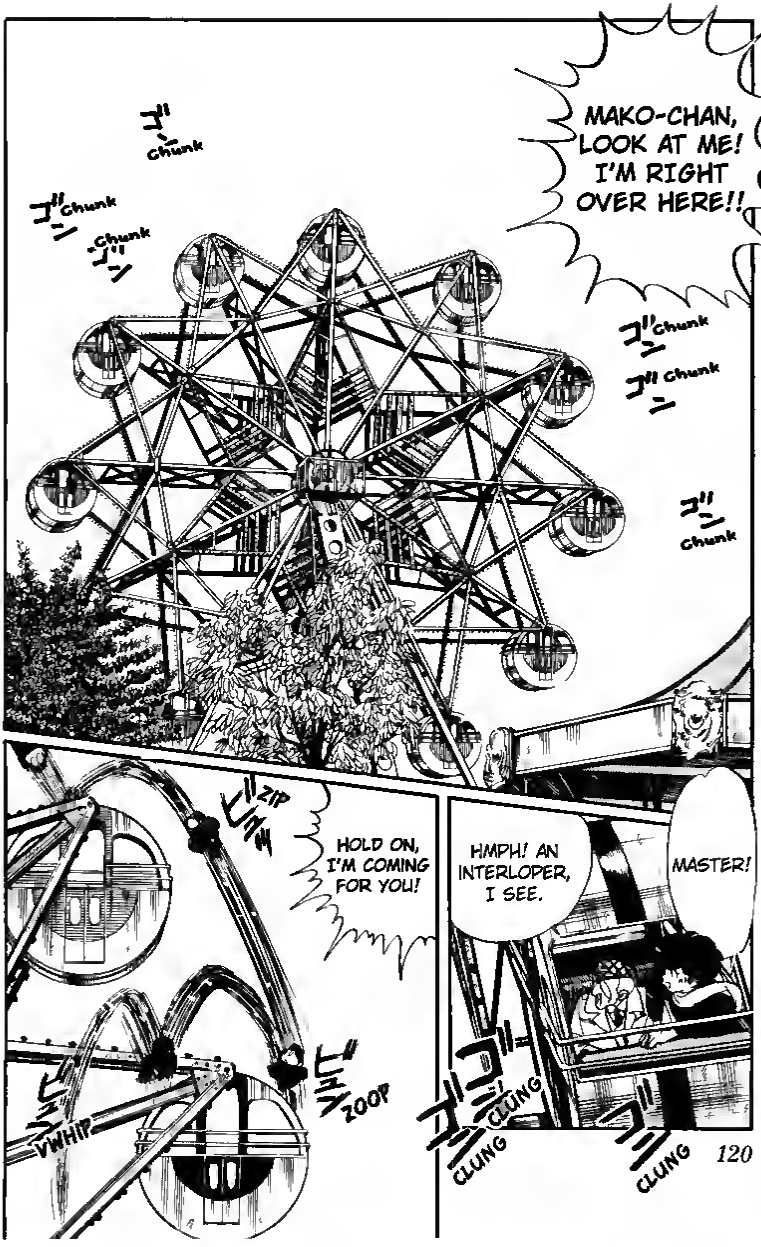
NOTE THE ORIGINAL TEXT SAID KIKUNAI INSTEAD OF KIKUNA I'M GOING ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT THIS WAS A TYPO BY THE AUTHOR.

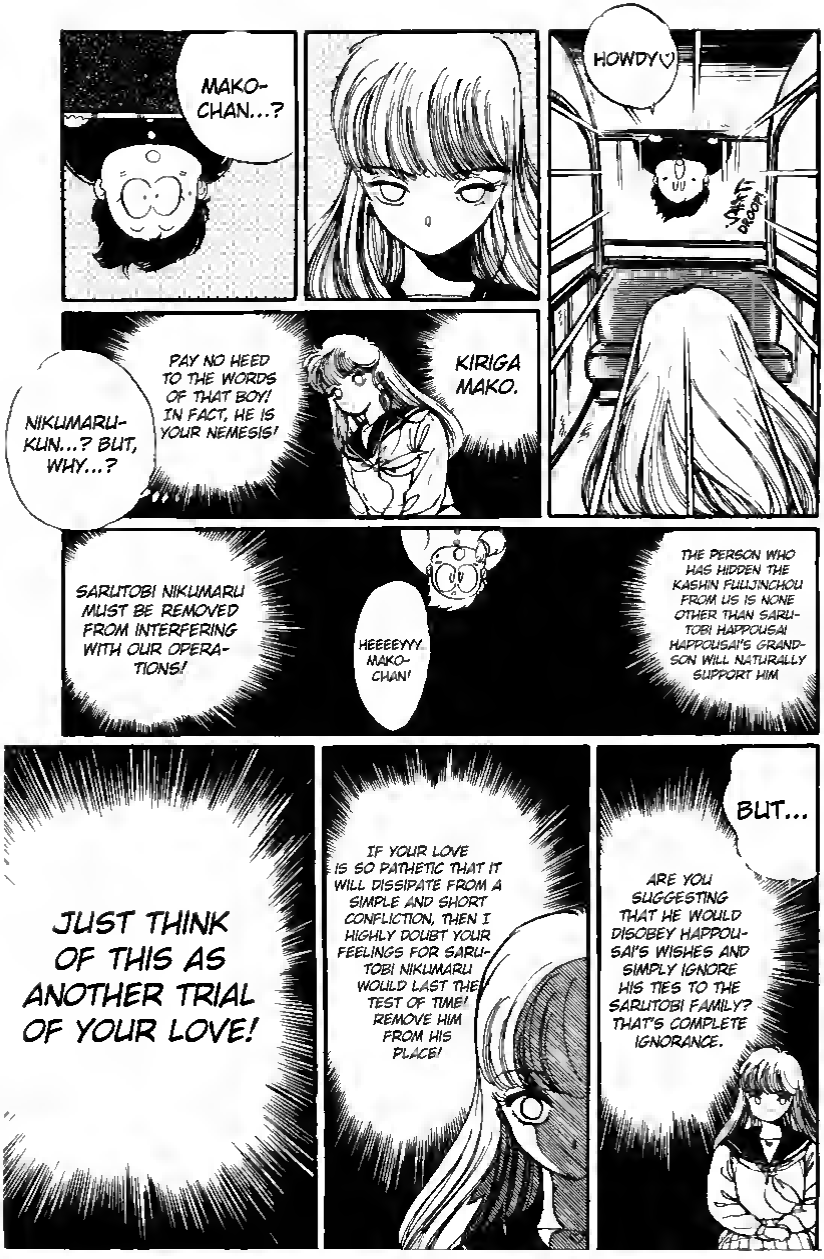
BWOOOOOOOSH
YOU'RE A DUDE...
RUSH
K-KIKUNA-SAN...*
JUST LIKE I THOUGHT...
I'M BEGGING YOU, SARUTOBI-KUN. YOU MUSTN'T TELL ANYONE ABOUT WHAT YOU JUST SAW!!
NAME YOUR DEMANDS, I'M WILLING TO NEGOTIATE! JUST KEEP THIS TO YOURSELF!
PERFECT, I'LL TELL YOU WHAT THOSE TWO ARE DOING RIGHT NOW IN EX-CHANCE, OKAY?
ULP.
WAH?
GRIP
WHERE IS MAKO-CHAN RIGHT NOW?
FINE, RIDDLE ME THIS!

YES, GENTLY.
AWAKEN, EYES OF POWER.
JUST LIKE THAT.
TELL ME, WHO ARE YOU?
MY NAME IS...
YES.
CAN YOU HEAR MY VOICE?
STRENGTH.
STRENGTH AS A NINJA.
THE SAME STRENGTH POSSESSED BY NIKUMARU-KUN.
SUPERB! MOVING ALONG, KIRIGA MAKO.
NAME YOUR CURRENT PRIMARY OBJECTIVE. THE ONE THING IN THE WORLD YOU WANT MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE.
KIRIGA MAKO.
I'M SEVENTEEN.
STUDENT OF THE ACADEMY OF NINJAS.
CLASS 2-A, SEAT NUMBER FIVE.

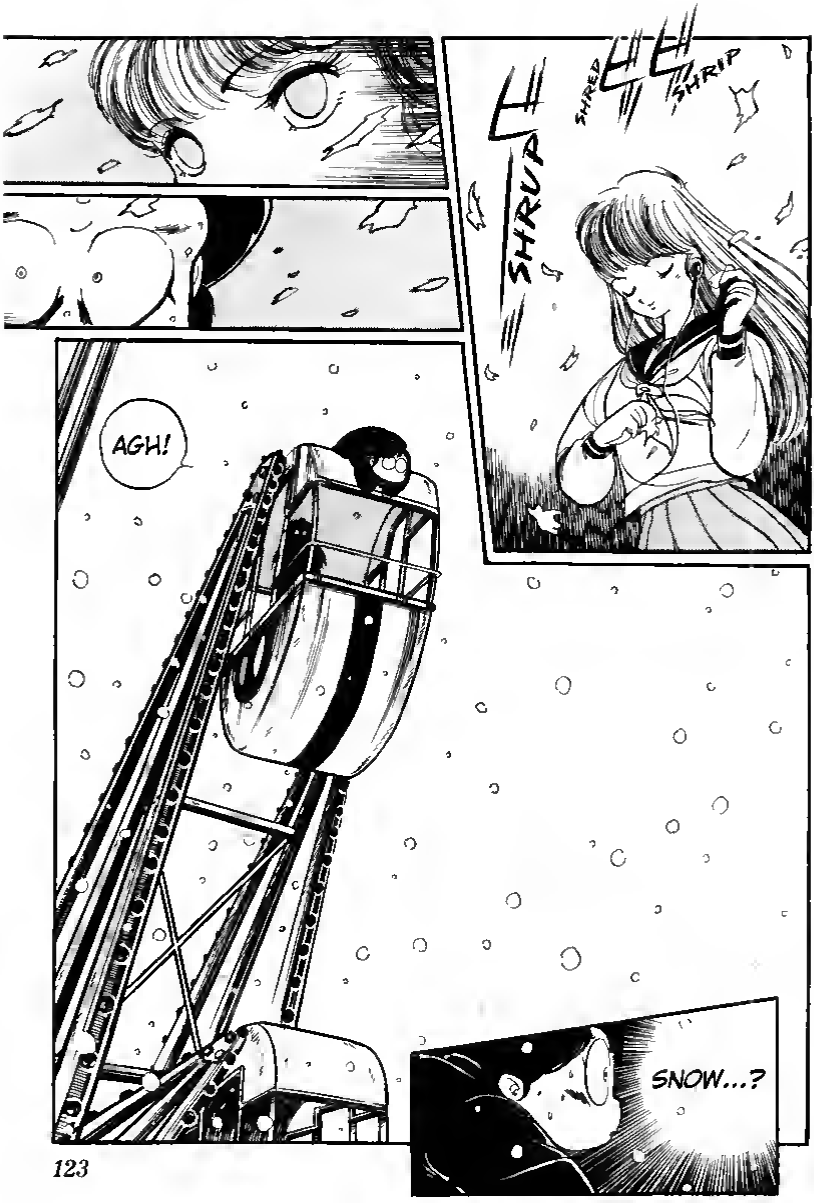
...YES!
VERY WELL. ARE YOU IN LOVE WITH SARUTOBI NIKUMARU?
BECAUSE I WANT TO FOLLOW NIKUMARU-KUN WHEREVER HE MAY GO.
WHY DO YOU DESIRE IT?
WHY, OF COURSE. AFTER ALL, THERE EXISTS BOTH THE MEANS TO ACCOMPLISH IT.
IT IS?
WONDERFUL, MY DEAR! THAT'S AN EASILY GRANTED WISH.
WITH THE DECEPTIVE TECHNIQUES CONTAINED WITHIN KASHIN FUUJINCHOU, EVEN THE FARFETCHED CONCEPT OF IMMORTALITY CAN BECOME REALITY.
RECENTLY, I'VE HEARD THAT NAME COME UP SOMEWHERE...
KASHIN.
THE KASHIN FUUJINCHOU!!
WHAT MEANS?
OBTAIN THE FUUJINCHOU...
THEREFORE, YOU MUST OBTAIN THE KASHIN FUUJINCHOU TO ACCOMPLISH YOUR DREAM OF GAINING POWER, KIRIGA MAKO!

SIMPLY FINDING THAT BOOK OF SECRETS WILL GRANT ME THE POWER I DESIRE?
THEN I'LL BE AN INCREDIBLE NINJA JUST LIKE NIKUMARU-KUN?
ONCE WE'RE EQUALS, I'LL NEVER HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT BEING SEPERATED FROM NIKUMARU-KUN EVER AGAIN!
WHICH MEANS WE'LL BE TOGETHER, FOR-EVER AND EVER, UNTIL THE END OF TIME ITSELF?
MAKO-CHAAAA-AAAN!!
CLUNK
CLUNK
CLUNK
NGH!
CLUNKCLUNKCLUNK


MAKO-CHAN, LOOK AT ME! I'M RIGHT OVER HERE!!
ゴ!! Chunk
ゴ!! Chunk
ゴ!! Chunk
ゴ!! Chunk
ゴ!! Chunk
ゴ!! Chunk
ZIP
HOLD ON, I'M COMING FOR YOU!
WHIP
ZOOP
HMPH! AN INTERLOPER, I SEE.
MASTER!
CLUNG
CLUNG
CLUNG


MAKO-CHAN...?
HOWDY♡
KIRIGA MAKO.
PAY NO HEED TO THE WORDS OF THAT BOY! IN FACT, HE IS YOUR NEMESIS!
NIKUMARU-KUN...? BUT, WHY...?
THE PERSON WHO HAS HIDDEN THE KASHIN FUUJINCHOU FROM US IS NONE OTHER THAN SARUTOBI HAPPOUSAI HAPPOUSAI'S GRANDSON WILL NATURALLY SUPPORT HIM
HEEEEYYY MAKO-CHAN!
SARUTOBI NIKUMARU MUST BE REMOVED FROM INTERFERING WITH OUR OPERATIONS!
BUT...
ARE YOU SUGGESTING THAT HE WOULD DISOBEY HAPPOU-SAI'S WISHES AND SIMPLY IGNORE HIS TIES TO THE SARUTOBI FAMILY? THAT'S COMPLETE IGNORANCE.
IF YOUR LOVE IS SO PATHETIC THAT IT WILL DISSIPATE FROM A SIMPLE AND SHORT CONFLICTION, THEN I HIGHLY DOUBT YOUR FEELINGS FOR SARU-TOBI NIKUMARU WOULD LAST THE TEST OF TIME! REMOVE HIM FROM HIS PLACE!
JUST THINK OF THIS AS ANOTHER TRIAL OF YOUR LOVE!

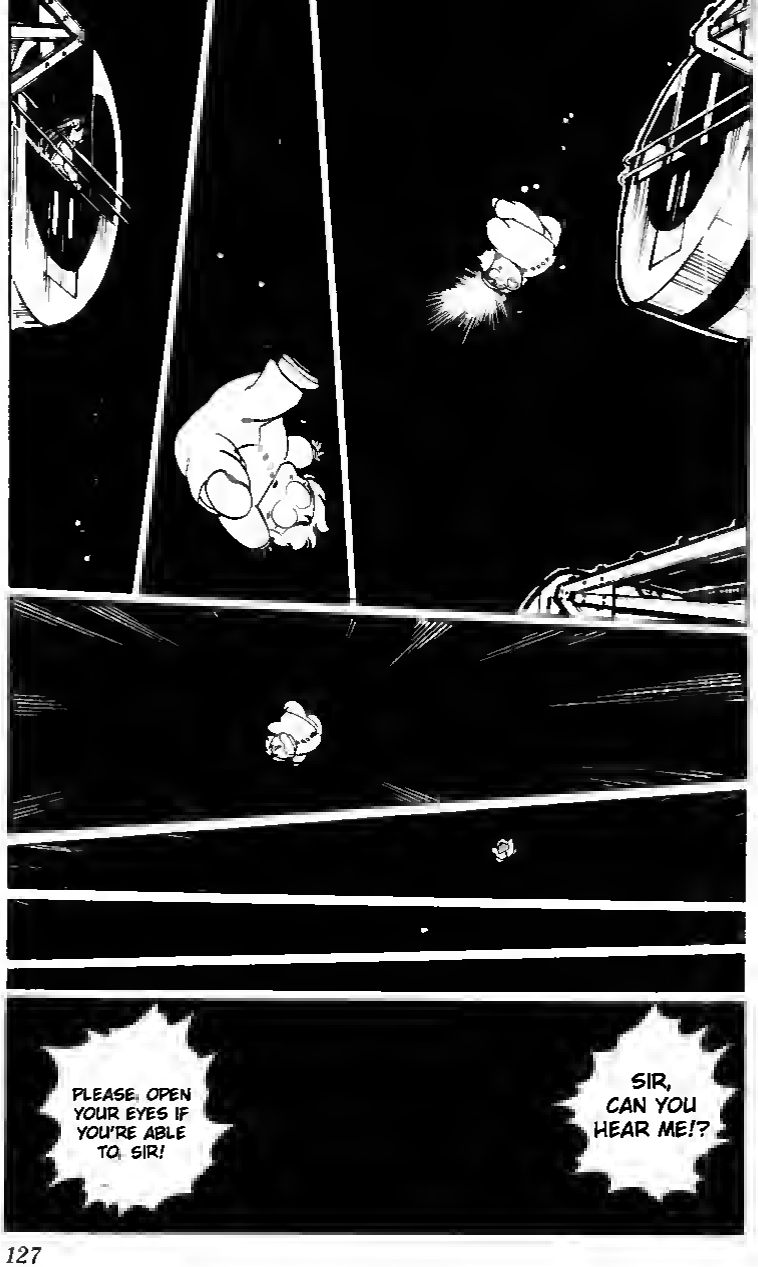
PUSH THE LIMITS OF YOUR LOVE FOR SARUTOBI NIKUMARU!
EH?
CLING
CLING
CLING
SHIRT


SHRUP
SHRED
SHRIP
AGH!
SNOW...?

VWWWWRRRRRRRRRRRMMMMMM
NNGH!
M-MAKO-CHAN...?
WHAT A STIMULATING EXPERIMENT, HOHOHOHHHH.
HOHOH, THIS IS JUST THE BEGINNING OF YOUR POTENTIAL AS A GENJUTSU GODDESS, MY DEAR. WE STILL HAVE A LONG WAYS TO GO

Flame of Deception

NIKUMARU-KUN!
COME ON, HURRY UP!
HAHAHA, WHAT'S THE HOLDUP, NIKUMARU-KUN!?
MAKO-CHAAAAAN!!
NIKUMARU-KUUUN!


PLEASE, OPEN YOUR EYES IF YOU'RE ABLE TO, SIR!
SIR, CAN YOU HEAR ME!?

WELL, YOU FELL FROM ONE OF THE CARRIAGES TO THE ATTRACTION'S BASE.
I... WHAT HAPPENED?
THANKFULLY, THE CARRIAGE WAS ONLY ABOUT A METER OFF THE GROUND WHEN YOU STARTED FALLING.
CLUNG
CLUNG
ARE YOU FEELING ALRIGHT, SIR?
TELL ME, ARE YOU INJURED ANYWHERE?
OH, HE'S COMING AROUND! YES!
UU-UGH...
BLIZ-ZARD?
SOMETHING DEFINITELY JARRED A SCREW LOOSE IN THAT KID'S HEAD.
RIGHT, WHERE'S MAKO-CHAN?
AND WHAT HAPPENED TO THAT BLIZZARD?
AH...
WHERE'D IT GO?
THE SNOW...

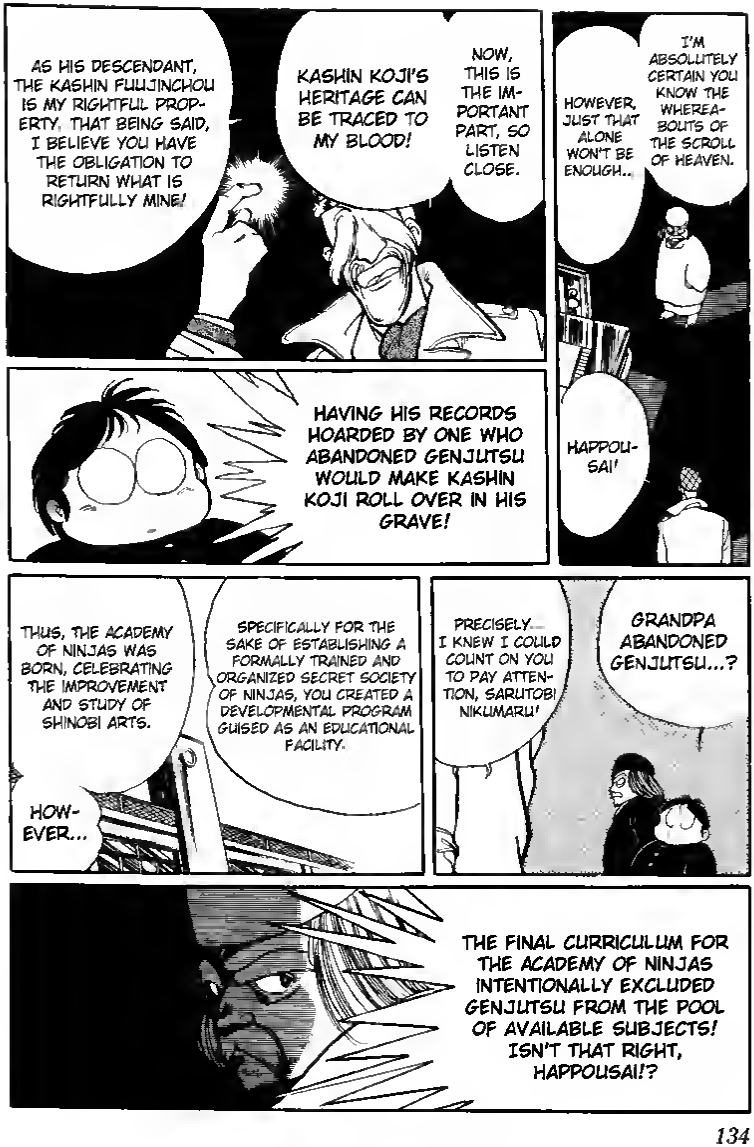
I'M DEAD SURE I SAW A SNOW-STORM JUST BEFORE I HIT THE GROUND!
EXCUSE ME AGAIN, SIR, BUT ARE YOU CERTAIN YOU'RE FEELING ABLE TO WALK?
BWHAAAAM
HIT

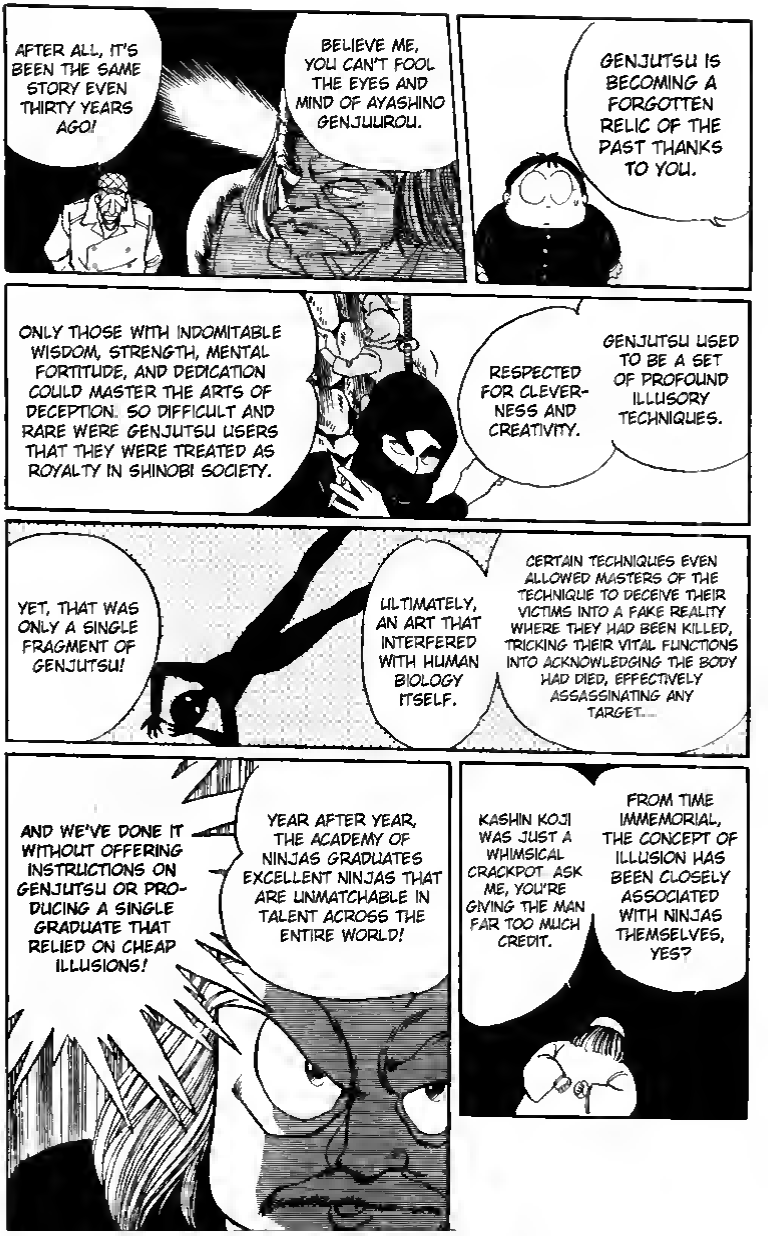
WHAA!!
WE'RE TOO LATE, NIKU-MARU...
I CAME HERE ON A HUNCH AFTER RECENT EVENTS.
GRANDPA?
THOUGH IT SEEMS I WAS ONE STEP BEHIND...
THE CAFE'S BEEN TOTALLY ABANDONED AT THIS POINT.
AGH!
VWEEER
MY DEAREST THANKS FOR FINALLY DECIDING TO PAY ME A VISIT.
HAP-POUSAI...

WHAT THE HELL DID YOU DO TO HER?
WHERE IS MAKO-CHAN?
HOHHHOHHHOHHH. FEAR NOT, YOUNG ONE, SHE'S PERFECTLY SAFE. AS YOU SHOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO CONFIRM IN PERSON EARLIER...
THE MOMENT I HEARD THE TERM KASHIN FUUJINCHOU BROUGHT UP, YOUR FACE POPPED INTO MY MIND IN-STANTLY!
I HAD A STRANGE FEELING YOU'D BE BEHIND THIS, GENJUUROU..
!!
HMPH, I'D PREFER NOT TO HEAR THAT FROM A CRUSTY DINO-SAUR LONG OVERDUE FOR EXTINCTION SUCH AS YOURSELF. VERY WELL, LET'S CUT THE FORMALITIES AND GET DOWN TO THE BUSINESS PORTION OF OUR REUNION
THROUGH THE PASSAGE OF TIME, THE ONCE FEARED AND RESPECTED SARUTOBI HAPPOU-SAI HAS DEGRADED FROM THE STATUS OF A DEMON OF THE SHINOBI WORLD TO A TINY, FRAGILE OLD MAN!
OH, YOU FLATTER ME. BUT, TIME CERTAINLY IS A STRANGE PHENOMENON.
I'M GREATLY PLEASED YOUR GRANDSON ALSO MANAGED TO JOIN US.
TH-THE OWNER...

AH!
Bweem
HARSH WORDS RIGHT OFF THE BAT. COME NOW, WE HAVEN'T SEEN EACH OTHER FOR OVER 30 YEARS
HMM...
HOW ABOUT A TOAST TO OLD FRIENDSHIP?
HOHHHOHH-HOHHHH! NO FUN ALLOWED WITH YOU, I SEE!
LIKE I SAID, LET'S DITCH THE FORMALITIES AND CUT TO THE CHASE...
Spit
NO MATTER HOW REALISTIC THE IMITATION, IT DOESN'T HOLD A CANDLE TO THE REAL THING. CALL IT WISDOM OF THE ELDERLY.
HERE'S MY PROPOSITION: I BOW MY HEAD TO YOU AND YOU HAND OVER THE FUUJINCHOU. WHAT DO YOU SAY, OLD SPORT?

SMASH
ENOUGH PLAYING THE FOOL!! I WILL HAVE NO TOLERANCE FOR CHILDISH GAMES, HAPPOUSAI!!
WELL, YOU SEE HERE, I DON'T ACTUALLY HAVE ANYTHING LIKE THE KASHIN FUUJINCHOU..
HAH! NATURALLY, YOU'RE AFTER THE SCROLL OF HEAVEN, THEN..
RUMORED TO BE ASSEMBLED WITHIN THE SCROLL OF HEAVEN ARE ONE THOUSAND OF KOJI'S GENJUTSU TECHNIQUES.
THE FIRST BEING THE "SCROLL OF HEAVEN".
THE SECOND BEING THE "SCROLL OF EARTH"
HOUSED WITHIN THE CONTAINER OF KASHIN KOJI'S RECORDS, ALSO REFERRED TO AS THE KASHIN FUUJINCHOU, ARE TWO SEPERATE SCROLLS, BOTH PART OF A MATCHING SET!
FINE, I'LL BE MORE SPECIFIC...
...MOVING ALONG...
HM, EVEN WITHOUT SAYING ANYTHING, I'M SURE YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT'S IN THERE
HOWEVER, THE SCROLL OF EARTH CONTAINS...
THE LOCATIONS OF COUNTLESS FORTUNES MUST BE WRITTEN WITHIN THAT INDEX!
A MASSIVE INVENTORY OF TREASURES FROM THE MANY IMPORTANT CLANS AND OFFICIALS KOJI ONCE WORKED UNDER...


AS HIS DESCENDANT, THE KASHIN FUUJINCHOU IS MY RIGHTFUL PROPERTY. THAT BEING SAID, I BELIEVE YOU HAVE THE OBLIGATION TO RETURN WHAT IS RIGHTFULLY MINE!
KASHIN KOJI'S HERITAGE CAN BE TRACED TO MY BLOOD!
NOW, THIS IS THE IMPORTANT PART, SO LISTEN CLOSE.
HAVING HIS RECORDS HOARDED BY ONE WHO ABANDONED GENJUTSU WOULD MAKE KASHIN KOJI ROLL OVER IN HIS GRAVE!
HOWEVER, JUST THAT ALONE WON'T BE ENOUGH..
I'M ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN YOU KNOW THE WHEREABOUTS OF THE SCROLL OF HEAVEN.
HAPPOU-SAI!
THUS, THE ACADEMY OF NINJAS WAS BORN, CELEBRATING THE IMPROVEMENT AND STUDY OF SHINOBI ARTS.
SPECIFICALLY FOR THE SAKE OF ESTABLISHING A FORMALLY TRAINED AND ORGANIZED SECRET SOCIETY OF NINJAS, YOU CREATED A DEVELOPMENTAL PROGRAM GUISED AS AN EDUCATIONAL FACILITY.
HOWEVER...
PRECISELY... I KNEW I COULD COUNT ON YOU TO PAY ATTENTION, SARUTOBI NIKUMARU!
GRANDPA ABANDONED GENJUTSU...?
THE FINAL CURRICULUM FOR THE ACADEMY OF NINJAS INTENTIONALLY EXCLUDED GENJUTSU FROM THE POOL OF AVAILABLE SUBJECTS! ISN'T THAT RIGHT, HAPPOUSAI!?


AFTER ALL, IT'S BEEN THE SAME STORY EVEN THIRTY YEARS AGO!
BELIEVE ME, YOU CAN'T FOOL THE EYES AND MIND OF AYASHINO GENJUUROU.
GENJUTSU IS BECOMING A FORGOTTEN RELIC OF THE PAST THANKS TO YOU.
ONLY THOSE WITH INDOMITABLE WISDOM, STRENGTH, MENTAL FORTITUDE, AND DEDICATION COULD MASTER THE ARTS OF DECEPTION. SO DIFFICULT AND RARE WERE GENJUTSU USERS THAT THEY WERE TREATED AS ROYALTY IN SHINOBI SOCIETY.
RESPECTED FOR CLEVERNESS AND CREATIVITY.
GENJUTSU USED TO BE A SET OF PROFOUND ILLUSORY TECHNIQUES.
YET, THAT WAS ONLY A SINGLE FRAGMENT OF GENJUTSU!
ULTIMATELY, AN ART THAT INTERFERED WITH HUMAN BIOLOGY ITSELF.
CERTAIN TECHNIQUES EVEN ALLOWED MASTERS OF THE TECHNIQUE TO DECEIVE THEIR VICTIMS INTO A FAKE REALITY WHERE THEY HAD BEEN KILLED, TRICKING THEIR VITAL FUNCTIONS INTO ACKNOWLEDGING THE BODY HAD DIED, EFFECTIVELY ASSASSINATING ANY TARGET.
AND WE'VE DONE IT WITHOUT OFFERING INSTRUCTIONS ON GENJUTSU OR PRODUCING A SINGLE GRADUATE THAT RELIED ON CHEAP ILLUSIONS!
YEAR AFTER YEAR, THE ACADEMY OF NINJAS GRADUATES EXCELLENT NINJAS THAT ARE UNMATCHABLE IN TALENT ACROSS THE ENTIRE WORLD!
KASHIN KOJI WAS JUST A WHIMSICAL CRACKPOT. ASK ME, YOU'RE GIVING THE MAN FAR TOO MUCH CREDIT.
FROM TIME IMMEMORIAL, THE CONCEPT OF ILLUSION HAS BEEN CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH NINJAS THEMSELVES, YES?

SIMPLY SPEAKING OUT LOUD, NOTHING MORE.
WHAT?
UNFORTUNATELY FOR YOU, THAT SAME PRECIOUS ACADEMY HAS PRODUCED THE GREATEST GENJUTSU USER THE WORLD HAS SEEN IN THE LAST CENTURY! SHALL WE CALL IT POETIC JUSTICE? OHHOHHHOHHH...
HAPPOU-SAI!!
I CAN'T GIVE YOU WHAT DOESN'T EXIST!
CONSIDER THIS YOUR FINAL WARNING...
NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES YOU ASK ME ABOUT THE SCROLLS, MY ANSWER WON'T CHANGE...
THIS TIME I WON'T ASK AS AN OLD FRIEND. HAND OVER THE KASHIN FUUJINCHOU IMMEDIATELY.
HAPPOUSAI, I'LL REPEAT MYSELF ONLY ONCE HOWEVER...
NGH!!
FLASH!!
YOU STUBB- RN OLD FOOOOOL!

BRING MAKO-CHAN BACK TO MEEEE-EEEE!!
GIVE BACK...
GIVE BACK MAKO-CHAN!!
W-WAIT!
THE NEGO-TIATIONS END NOW!!
PREPARE FOR THE COMING DISASTERS THAT SHALL PLAGUE THE ACADEMY OF NINJAS UNTIL THE DAY YOU SUBMIT TO MY DEMANDS!!
FROM THAT DAY FORTH...
MAKO'S WHEREABOUTS REMAINED ENTIRELY UNKNOWN.
DID THAT CRETIN DO SOMETHING UNDERHANDED TO MAKO-CHAN?
HMM, NIKU-MARU!?
WELL, WHAT'S ALL THIS ABOUT MAKO-CHAN?

Kiriga Ako collapsed out of anxiety from her daughter's disappearance.
Likewise, the Sanada twins completely vanished from the Academy of Ninjas!
WHY YOU KEEP COMING HERE, KID..?
(REEEE
As for Nikumaru...
HERE.
...RIGHT...
BUT WHAT IF I OVERLOOKED SOME MINOR DETAIL THAT COULD TURN THIS WHOLE SITUATION AROUND!?
BOTH OF US KNOW NOTHING'S GONNA BE ANY DIFFERENT FROM THE LAST TWENTY TIMES YA SEARCHED THE PLACE.
Knock Knock
MMMRGH!
BLOAT

DON'T WORRY, MAKO'S GONNA BE JUST FINE
I AM...
WASSA MATTER? NOT HUNGRY, NIKUMARU?
SHE'S GOT HEART TO SPARE AND A GOOD HEAD ON HER SHOULDERS.
YEAH
EVEN THOUGH YOU UNDERSTAND HOW RIDICULOUS THIS SITUATION IS, YER STILL GONNA POKE AROUND HERE UNTIL THE COWS COME HOME, AINTCHA ..?
YEP...
Tonk Tonk
YOU'RE WASTING YOUR ENERGY... MAKO'S MOM IS BEDRIDDEN FROM WORRYING AND BEFORE YA KNOW IT, YOU'LL BE IN THE SAME BOAT.
SPENDING ALL YOUR TIME HERE INVESTIGATING AND NOT EATING...
SURE
THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH BREAKING DOWN AND CRYING, DAMMIT!
OKAY...
I KNOW IT'S TOUGH, BUT BE REALISTIC!
THE SCHOOL'S ON FIRE!!
THE SCHOOL....
WAIT, WUZ-ZAT..?
AFTER ALL THAT, YOU STILL CAME UP EMPTY-HANDED..

KRAAAAASSSH
SHATTER
THUMP
WHOOO

SURIEEEEEK
WHAT THE...
BANGBANGBANG
KLAAAANG
...
RRRRRH
SONIC STOM-ACH...
WATCH OUT!!
TOK TOK TOK
KOTAROU!?
TECHNII-IIQUE!!
NOW YOU DIE!!
VWOOOM

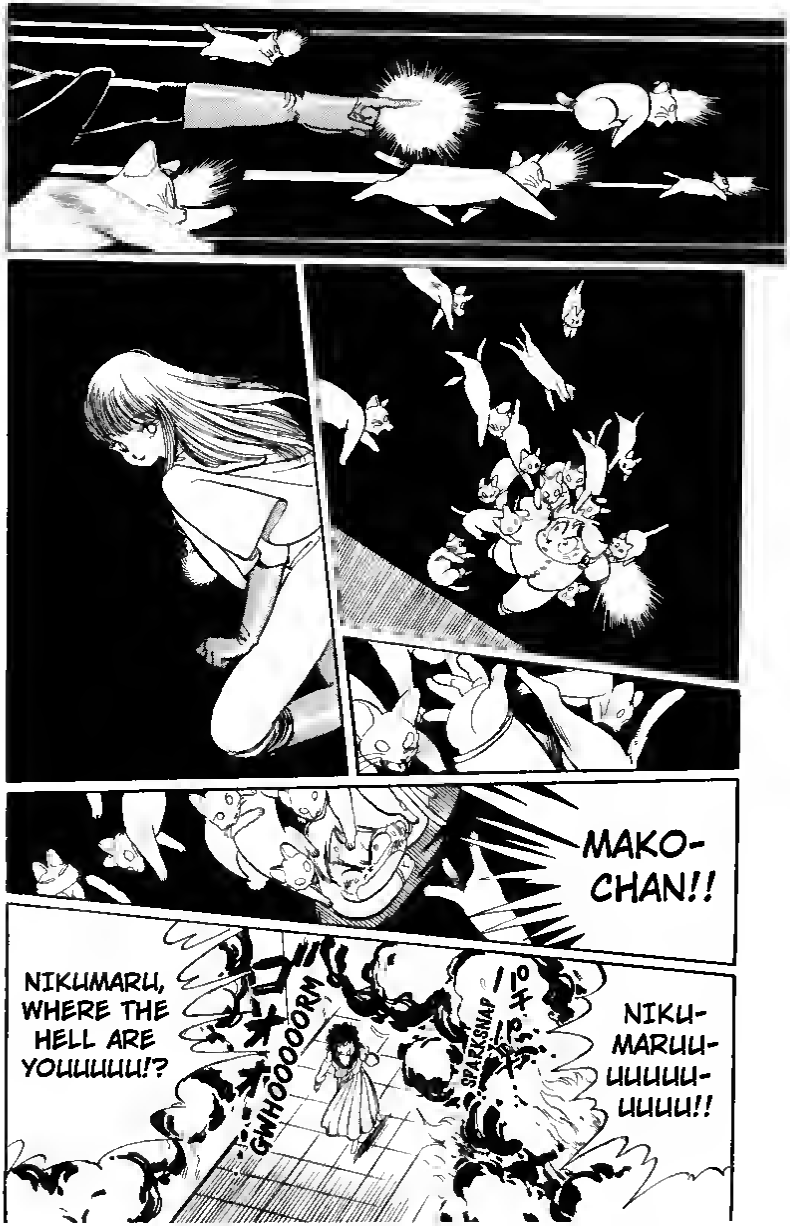
FINALLY COME TO YOUR SENSES, NUMBNUTS!?
WHA?
HUH?
KRONK
DON'T SCREAM CRAP LIKE THAT STRAIGHT OUT, DAMMIT!!
MAN, THIS GUY'S GONNA GIVE ME GRAY HAIRS BEFORE I GRADUATE..
I-ISHIKAWA-KUN~ WHAT ON EARTH HAVE YOU DONE TO ME WHILE I WAS UNCON-SCIOUS!?
A SCHOOLWIDE BROADCAST?
YEAHHHHH
THE MOMENT, WE ALL HEARD HER ANNOUNCEMENT, EVERYONE OBEDI-ENTLY BEGAN FOLLOWING HER ORDERS TO DEMOLISH THE ACADEMY...
WE MUST CRUSH IT!
SHE SAID THIS SCHOOL IS A MALIGNANT DEFILEMENT OF EDUCATION AND THAT IT WAS MIS-LEADING US
CRUSH IT!
CRUSH IT!!
AFTER-WARDS, A FEMALE VOICE CAME THROUGH...
A GIRL?
RIGHT, JUST BEFORE THE MORNING AS-SEMBLY, A STRANGE MELODY STARTED TO PLAY ON THE SPEAKERS INSTALLED WITHIN EVERY CLASSROOM.

I'M GOING TO THE BROADCAST ROOM!!
NIKUMARU!
UNLESS THE OTHER STUDENTS ARE FORCEFULLY STOPPED LIKE YOU DID TO ME, I'M CERTAIN THEY WILL RELENTLESSLY CONTINUE THEIR FRENZY OF DESTRUCTION UNTIL THE BUILDING IS BUT ASHES...
OGATA'S HERE!!
OGATA!
UNTIL THE PRINCIPAL SETS FOOT IN THIS BUILDING, I'M IN CHARGE OF OPERATIONS AND DON'T YOU FRIGGIN' FORGET IT!
GET A GRIP, YOU GODDAMN YARDAPES!!
WHAT, DID YOU BRATS THINK I WAS ALL TALK THE ENTIRE TIME!? PREPARE FOR SOME EXTRACURRICULAR LESSONS, KIDS!
GUESS IT'S ABOUT GODDAMN TIME I STARTED CLEARING OUT THE TRASH LINING THESE HALLWAYS!
GET OUTTA MY SIGHT...
SCREW IT, HE CAN'T TAKE ALL THREE OF US ALONE!!
UWISH
CHARGE!!

HOPEFULLY BEATING IT INTO YOUR BODIES HELPS YOU JACKASSES FINALLY LEARN SOMETHING WORTHWHILE...
BOOOUND!
Sign Broadcast Room
SLAM!

MAKO-
CHAAAAAA-
AAAAAN!!

MA...


MAKO-CHAN!!
NIKUMARU, WHERE THE HELL ARE YOUUUUU!?
GWHOOOORM
SPARKSNAP
NIKU-MARUU-UUUUU-UUUU!!

ISHIKAWA-KUN, WE MUST LEAVE NOW! OTHERWISE, WE'LL COLLAPSE FROM THE SMOKE...
HACK! GEH! THE FLAMES HAVE SPREAD THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE SCHOOL.
PLEASE MAKE IT OUT ALIVE... NIKUMARU...
COME ON, ANSWER ME!
NIKUM-ARU!
CACOPHONY
SIREN
SIREN
SIREN
STEP ASIDE! MOVE IT!
PRINCI-PAL...
OGATA-KUN, WHAT'S GOING ON...?
SLAM!
SCREAMS
SKRRRCH!
SCREAMS

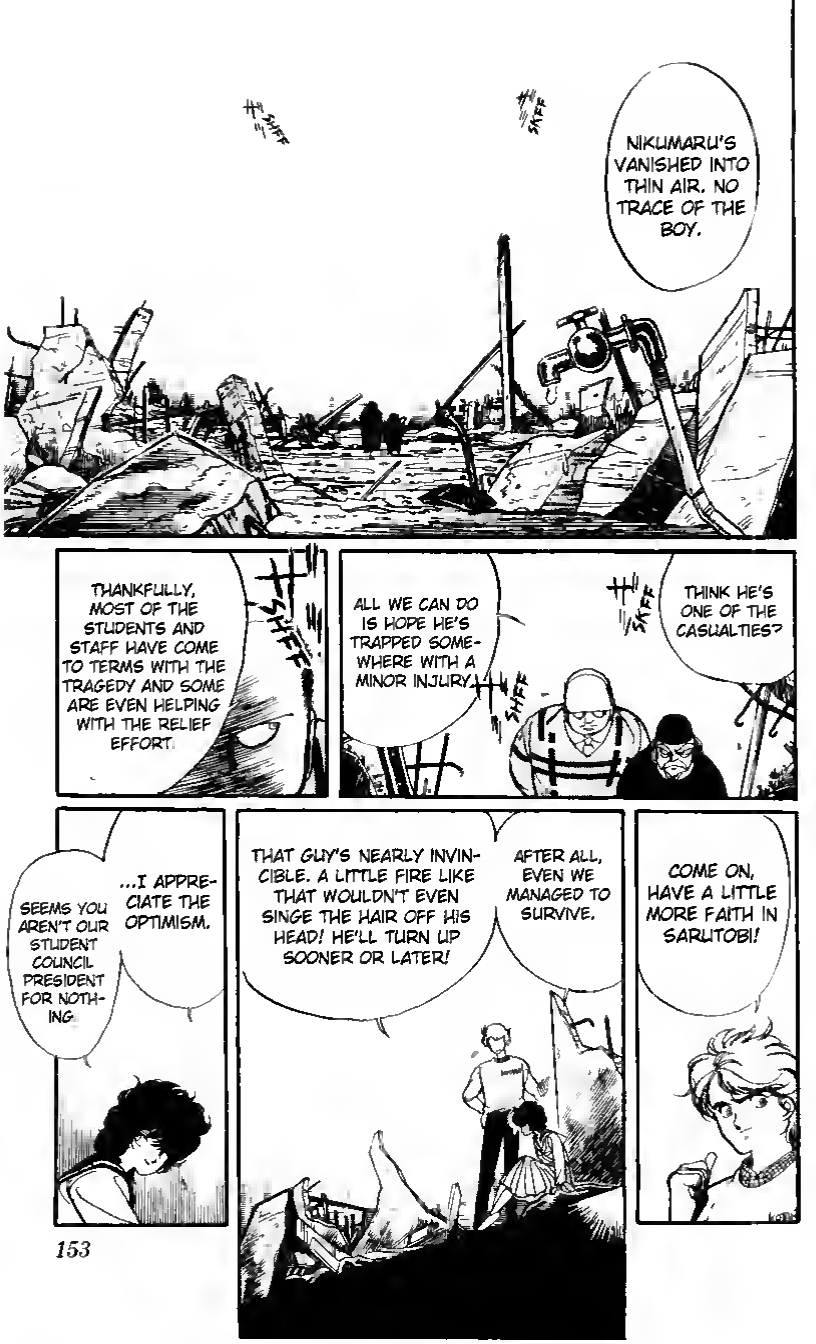
THE ACADEMY OF NINJAS IS...
THE SCHOOL IS...
...
THANK YOU FOR COMING. ALTHOUGH THIS MAY BE DIFFICULT TO FULLY COMPREHEND, ALLOW ME TO PROVIDE A DETAILED EXPLANATION OF THE SITUATION. .
ゴオオ
BLAZE
VHOOOOOOM
THE ACADEMY OF NINJAS IS BURNING...
SOARING ABOVE VAST RIVERS, CRASHING WAVES, AND OCEAN DEPTHS, WE TAKE FLIGHT RIDING ON THE WINGS WE EARNED AT OUR BELOVED ACADEMY. THE ACADEMY OF NINJAS.*

NOTE: THIS IS PART OF THE SCHOOL'S ANTHEM. PRETTY MUCH EVERY SCHOOL IN JAPAN HAS A SOMEWHAT UNIQUE ANTHEM THEY SING AT SCHOOL ASSEMBLIES, GRADUATION, ETC. THE ACADEMY OF NINJAS ANTHEM IS APPARENTLY LISTED AS OR BASED OFF AN ANTHEM IN JAPAN'S OFFICIAL RECORDS.

APPARENTLY SO, THEY WERE JUST DISCUSSING IT ON THE RADIO.
JUNGJUNGJUNGJUNGJUNGJUNG
THE ACADEMY OF NINJAS WAS BURNED TO THE GROUND?
COME NOW, DON'T WE DESERVE A LITTLE MORE CREDIT THAN THAT?
GUNGUNGUNGUNG
WE DON'T EVEN HOLD A CANDLE TO HER SKILLS.
GUESS SHE REALLY IS WORTHY OF THE MASTER'S PRAISE! CERTAINLY THIS ERA'S MOST EXCEPTIONAL GENJUTSU ARTIST.
PERHAPS THAT'S WHY HER PARENTS INCLUDED THE KANJI FOR DEMON FROM THE WORD DEMONIC IN HER NAME!*
THEN AGAIN, THE MASTER MIGHT HAVE BEEN INVOLVED WITH THAT...
BETWEEN YOU AND ME, I FOUND IT A LITTLE STRANGE SHE HAD NO PROBLEMS DESTROYING THE SCHOOL THAT HER OWN FATHER WAS IN CHARGE OF...
NOTE: THE MA PART OF MAKO'S NAME USES THE KANJI FOR DEMON.
JUNGJUNGJUNGJUNGJUNGJUNG...
TRUE, THAT DEFINITELY IS BIZARRE!
DON'T YOU AGREE THAT IT'S ODD THAT SUCH AN ORDINARY GIRL POSSESSES ABSOLUTE MASTERY OF THE RARE AND POWERFUL CRYSTAL EYES?
ISLAND OF DEMONS SPOTTED. PREPARE FOR LANDING!
Forever-and-Ever
GUNGUNGUNGUNG

Forever and Ever

ALRIGHT, EVERYBODY START TRANSPORTING THE MATERIALS!
JUST BE CAREFUL OUT THERE♡
MMMMPH.
SWEET MUTHA 'A PEARL, THEM BOXES BE HEFTY.
THERE'S ALL SORTSA JUNK PACKED AWAY INSIDE.
HEY, WE AIN'T ROLLING IN THE DOUGH OR ANYTHING, MAN!
NOT LIKE I'VE GOT ROOM TO COMPLAIN, BUT SEEMS HE SKIMPED OUT ON THE FOOD SELECTION AND WENT WITH CHEAP CRAP
MASTER CERTAINLY PULLED THROUGH FINDING THIS DESERTED ISLAND!
NOPE.
UHH, DIDJA SAY SOMETHING?
NNGH!
THUNK
ALRIGHT, LET'S HIT THE ROAD!!
...


SHFF
SHFF
NIKUMARU'S VANISHED INTO THIN AIR. NO TRACE OF THE BOY.
THANKFULLY, MOST OF THE STUDENTS AND STAFF HAVE COME TO TERMS WITH THE TRAGEDY AND SOME ARE EVEN HELPING WITH THE RELIEF EFFORT.
ALL WE CAN DO IS HOPE HE'S TRAPPED SOMEWHERE WITH A MINOR INJURY.
SHFF
SHFF
THINK HE'S ONE OF THE CASUALTIES?
SEEMS YOU AREN'T OUR STUDENT COUNCIL PRESIDENT FOR NOTHING.
...I APPRECIATE THE OPTIMISM.
THAT GUY'S NEARLY INVINCIBLE. A LITTLE FIRE LIKE THAT WOULDN'T EVEN SINGE THE HAIR OFF HIS HEAD! HE'LL TURN UP SOONER OR LATER!
AFTER ALL, EVEN WE MANAGED TO SURVIVE.
COME ON, HAVE A LITTLE MORE FAITH IN SARUTOBI!

A TITLE LIKE THAT'S DIRECTLY AFFILIATED WITH THE ACADEMY OF NINJAS...
NOW THAT THE FOUNDATION FOR THAT TITLE'S DISAPPEARED OVERNIGHT, GUESS IT DOESN'T HOLD A LOT OF MEANING ANYMORE.
THE STUDENT COUNCIL PRESIDENT YOU SAY...?
OH WELL, JUST GLAD I'VE GOT SOMEONE BY MY SIDE WHO ISN'T BAWLING LIKE A BABY OVER EVERY LITTLE THING.
SURPRISED YOUR LITTLE FANGIRL POSSE ISN'T CROWDING AROUND TO MAKE SURE YOU'RE UNHARMED.
ALTHOUGH THIS MIGHT SEEM INAPPROPRIATE, WITHOUT THE SCHOOL AROUND, I FEEL LIBERATED FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A LONG WHILE.
WOMEN MAY HAVE UNCONSCIOUSLY CROWDED AROUND ME SIMPLY FOR MY STATUS. NOW THAT I POSSESS NO SUCH THING, THEY'VE BEEN SCATTERED LIKE ASHES TO THE WIND.
WELL, I JUST THOUGHT THAT MEANT I COULD SPEND A SIGNIFICANT AMOUNT OF TIME TOGETHER NOW.
REALLY?
OHHHH.
ISHIKAWA-SENPAI! FUJIMA-SENPAI! WELL MET ON A LONG OVERDUE GREETING!!
OH, SENPAIS AND STAFF SPOTTED!!
PRINCIPAAAAAAAAALLLLL!!
.. DO WHATEVER YOU WANT

I'VE LOCATED KIRIGA-SENPAI!!
MY SEARCH HAS FINALLY COME THROUGH WITH RESULTS.
FORGET ABOUT THAT! I'VE GOT BIG NEWS...
COME TO THINK OF IT, WHERE THE HECK WHERE YOU DURING THE FIRE?
HATTORI YUUICHIROU-KUN?
AT LONG LAST, THE ACADEMY OF NINJAS IS NO MORE!!
THEREFORE...
THE GROWING DEMAND FOR HIRING SPECIAL AGENTS AND SPIES WILL FURIOUSLY EXPLODE! MODERN GOVERNMENTS AND SECRET SOCIETIES CANNOT OPERATE WITHOUT COVERT AND TRUSTWORTHY AGENTS! FOR THAT PURPOSE...

CHEERING
CHEERING
CHEERING
I HEREBY PROCLAIM THE FOUNDATION OF THE ACADEMY OF ILLUSIONS!
WHERE IS KIRIGA MAKO?
RESTING IN HER CHAMBERS, SHE MENTIONED SHE WAS TIRED EARLIER.
MAKO-CHAN!!
MAKO-CHAN!!
MAKO-CHAA-AAAN!!

AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAHHHHHHHHH
MAKO-CHAN...
HISSSSSS
AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAHHHHHHHHH
MAKO!!
A NIGHT-MARE?
NOTHING TO FEAR, YOUNG ONE!
HOU.
HAHH.
HAU.
AHH.

DON'T MOVE!!
PAP!!
SLAM!!
SARUTOBI NIKUMARU!?
AH!!
DON'T WORRY, I'LL RESCUE YOU, MAKO-CHAN♡
FINALLY FOUND YA!
I'M...
OKAY? I'M GONNA TAKE YOU HOME!!
I...
EVERYBODY'S WAITING FOR YOU.
BACK TO YOUR PLACE.
THEN, WE CAN HEAD HOME.

I'M KIRIGA MAKO, AN AGENT OF THE ACADEMY OF ILLUSIONS!!
MAKO-CHAN!!
TOK!
COCKROACH! PERISHING AT THE ACADEMY OF NINJAS WOULD HAVE BEEN A FITTING END FOR YOUUUU!
MAKO-CHAN...
HE WENT THATTA-WAY!
AFTER HIM!
SHOUTS
SHOUTS
SHOUTS
GLOMPGLOMPGLOMP
SHOOM
SHUFF
SWIFF
MAKO...

ARE YOU SPARING HIM ON PURPOSE, KIRIGA MAKO!?
WITH YOUR DEGREE OF SKILL YOU COULD EASILY REDUCE THAT SARUTOBI BRAT TO THE MENTALITY OF AN INFANT, CRUSHING HIM INSTANTLY.
MORE IMPORTANTLY, WHY DIDN'T YOU TRAP HIM WITH GENJUTSU!?
WHY HAVEN'T YOU GIVEN CHASE?
AND A THIRD TIME JUST NOW!
AGAIN DURING THE INFERNO AT THE ACADEMY OF NINJAS.
THIS HAPPENED AT THE AMUSEMENT PARK.
SPARING HIM...?
CURRENTLY, I AM WITHOUT A SHRED OF DOUBT THAT YOU HAVE SURPASSED SARUTOBI NIKUMARU AS THE WORLD'S MOST POWERFUL NINJA.
BUT, I...
EVERY SINGLE INSTANCE, HE HAS ESCAPED A CERTAINLY PERILOUS SITUATION UNHARMED.
...NO, THAT ISN'T RIGHT!
UNFORTUNATELY, BY SOME CRUEL TWIST OF FATE, YOU'RE REDUCED TO A HARMLESS STATUE WHEN FACING HIM!
I'VE SURPASSED SARUTOBI NIKUMARU...?
HOWEVER, THE BLAME ALMOST CERTAINLY LIES WITH THE SUBCONSCIOUS ATTACHMENT YOU POSSESS FOR HIM.

TO OVERCOME HIM, I MUST DEFEAT HIM WITH MY NEWFOUND MASTERY OF DECEPTION...
IF YOU TRULY WISH TO ACCOMPLISH YOUR DREAM, YOU MUST OVERCOME THAT BARRIER IN YOUR ABILITIES...
HOW ON EARTH DID THINGS TURN OUT THIS WAY?
SO HE WOULDN'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT BEING TOGETHER NO MATTER WHERE OUR LIVES TOOK US.
I JUST WANTED TO BE STRONG ENOUGH TO STAND BESIDE HIM AS AN EQUAL...
I DON'T UNDER-STAND!!
WHAT AM I DOING?
DO I REALLY NEED TO BE THIS STRONG?
UTILIZING YOUR GENJUTSU, CON-VINCE SARUTOBI TO JOIN THE ACADEMY OF ILLUSIONS!
WITH YOUR POWERS, OF COURSE!
NIKUMARU-KUN CAN BECOME A GENJUTSU USER TOO...?
FOCUS, THERE IS ONLY ONE OUTCOME THAT YOU NEED TO CONCENTRATE YOUR EFFORTS TOWARDS.
MAKO!
THIS DOESN'T MAKE SENSE! I DON'T GET IT! NOTHING'S ADDING UP!

UTILIZING MY GENJUTSU...
CONVINCE NIKUMARU-KUN TO JOIN...
SWAY
THE ACADEMY OF ILLUSIONS!
WHAT NOW!?
A PATROL BOAT FROM THE NATIONAL SECURITY BOARD IS APPROACHING THE ISLAND!!
M-MASTER, WE HAVE A CRISIS SITUATION!!
DIRT...?
JUNGJUNGJUNG...
INDEED, LEFT BEHIND ON THE FLOOR OF THE ABANDONED CAFE LANDMINE WAS A SINGLE CLUE.
A MINISCULE PIECE OF SOIL. TRACING THE COMPONENTS OF THE SAMPLE RESULTED IN A SINGLE MATCHING LOCATION, THE ISLAND WE'RE HEADING TO CURRENTLY.
NATURALLY, SENPAI SHOULD HAVE PICKED UP ON THEIR TRAIL BEFORE THE REST OF US. I BET HE'S ALREADY ON THE ISLAND!

MAKO'S UNFORTUNATELY STARTING TO REALLY TAKE AFTER HER MOTHER; FLYING OFF THE HANDLE AND RESORTING TO EXTREME MEASURES TO ACCOMPLISH A VERY BASIC GOAL.
NIKUMARU-KUN IS AN INCREDIBLY RELIABLE YOUNG MAN.
SO, PICKING THAT CAFE APART INCH BY INCH EVERY DAY FINALLY PAID OFF FOR HIM...
HMM... COME TO THINK OF IT, SHE'S PROBABLY BEEN THAT WAY EVER SINCE THEY MET TEN YEARS AGO.
CURRENTLY, SHE'S LIVING HER LIFE WITH NIKUMARU-KUN LITERALLY WEIGHING DOWN HER FREEDOM OF CHOICE.
I'M INCREDIBLY SORRY MAKO-CHAN HAD TO BE WRAPPED UP IN A PERSONAL FEUD.
HOWEVER, I PLEDGE ON THIS ANCIENT BODY OF MINE THAT I CAN AND WILL RESCUE YOUR DAUGHTER!
ALTHOUGH, I CAN'T DENY THIS SITUATION ORIGINATED FROM THE ANTAGONISM BETWEEN GENJUUROU AND MYSELF!
SENSEI!
MY, YOU MUST HAVE BEEN TERRIBLY DESPERATE TO RECRUIT AN OLD-TIMER LIKE MYSELF TO ASSIST WITH THIS MISSION!
I JUST WANTED TO MAKE THAT CLEAR TO YOU...
MAKO-CHAN'S BEEN FORCED INTO A CORNER, I CANNOT APOLOGIZE PROFUSELY ENOUGH FOR WHAT I'VE PUT YOUR FAMILY THROUGH...
THANKS FOR THE OPPORTUNITY YOU'VE GIVEN ME TO FINISH THIS.
BECAUSE OF ME.
ONE LAST THING, TAIZOU.

BRRRRRMMMM
VERY WELL... LET'S FINISH THE JOB WE STARTED AT THE ACADEMY!
DAMN THOSE ACADEMY OF NINJA WORMS!
NEW INFORMATION, MASTER. THE OCCUPANTS OF THE PATROL BOAT ARE CLAD IN SHINOBI GARB!
BOATS HAVE LAUNCHED FROM THE ISLAND. .
JUNGJUNGJUNG
JUMANJI
TCHK
TCHK
TCHK
SWOSH
SWOSH
SWOSH

CHAAAA-
AAAAAA-
AARGE!
FACE THE BOTTOMLESS WRATH OF AN UNEMPLOYED TEACHER!!
SPLIT!
WAA-
AGH!
BIFF!
FOLLOW OGATA'S LEAD!!

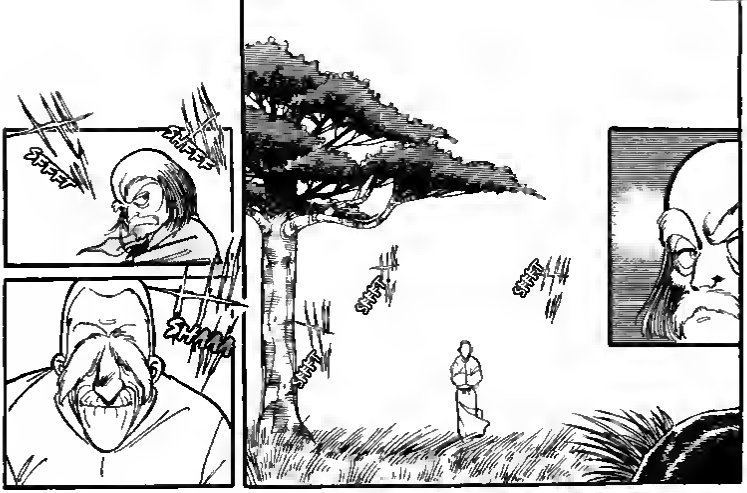
WHAP
BOOT
WHIPKRAK
THE NINJAS ARE ATTEMPTING AN ASSAULT ON THE WESTERN SHORE!
FORCE THEM TO THE SOUTHERN TIP! KEEP THEM AS FAR AWAY FROM THE BASE AS POSSIBLE!!
BWHOOOOOOOM
AH, THAT SIGNAL...
BTOOOOOM!

FIRE-WORKS...?
BATTLECRIES
WHOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO
AH!
ARE THEY CELEBRATING MY HEROIC ENTRANCE OR SOMETING?
WHAT THE HECK'S ALL THE EXCITE-MENT ABOUT?
MAKO-CHAN!!

THE AGE OF GEN-JUTSU!!
THE ERA OF THE ACADEMY OF ILLUSIONS...
NOW, THE TIME FOR A NEW GENERATION HAS ARRIVED.
NIKUMARU-KUN.
THE ACADEMY OF NINJAS IS FINISHED...
FWWOOOOOO
EVERY-BODY'S WAITING.
MAKO-CHAN.
Shuffle
Shuffle
LET'S GO HOME...
SO'S YOUR MOM
THE PRINCIPAL'S WORRIED ABOUT YOU
Shuffle
Shuffle
AT THE ACADEMY OF ILLU-SIONS!
JOIN ME...
OF COURSE, MY DADDY AND MOMMY TOO.
MIKA-CHAN, KOTAROU-SAN, AND HATTORI-KUN ALL MISS YOU.
WE DON'T NEED TO DETERMINE WHO WINS AND WHO LOSES.
I HAVE NO INTENTION OF FIGHTING WITH YOU.
BUT I WANT YOU BACK THE MOST!!
Shuffle
LISTEN TO WHAT I'M TRYING TO SAY! I'M BEGGING YOU!!

NIKU-
MARU!!

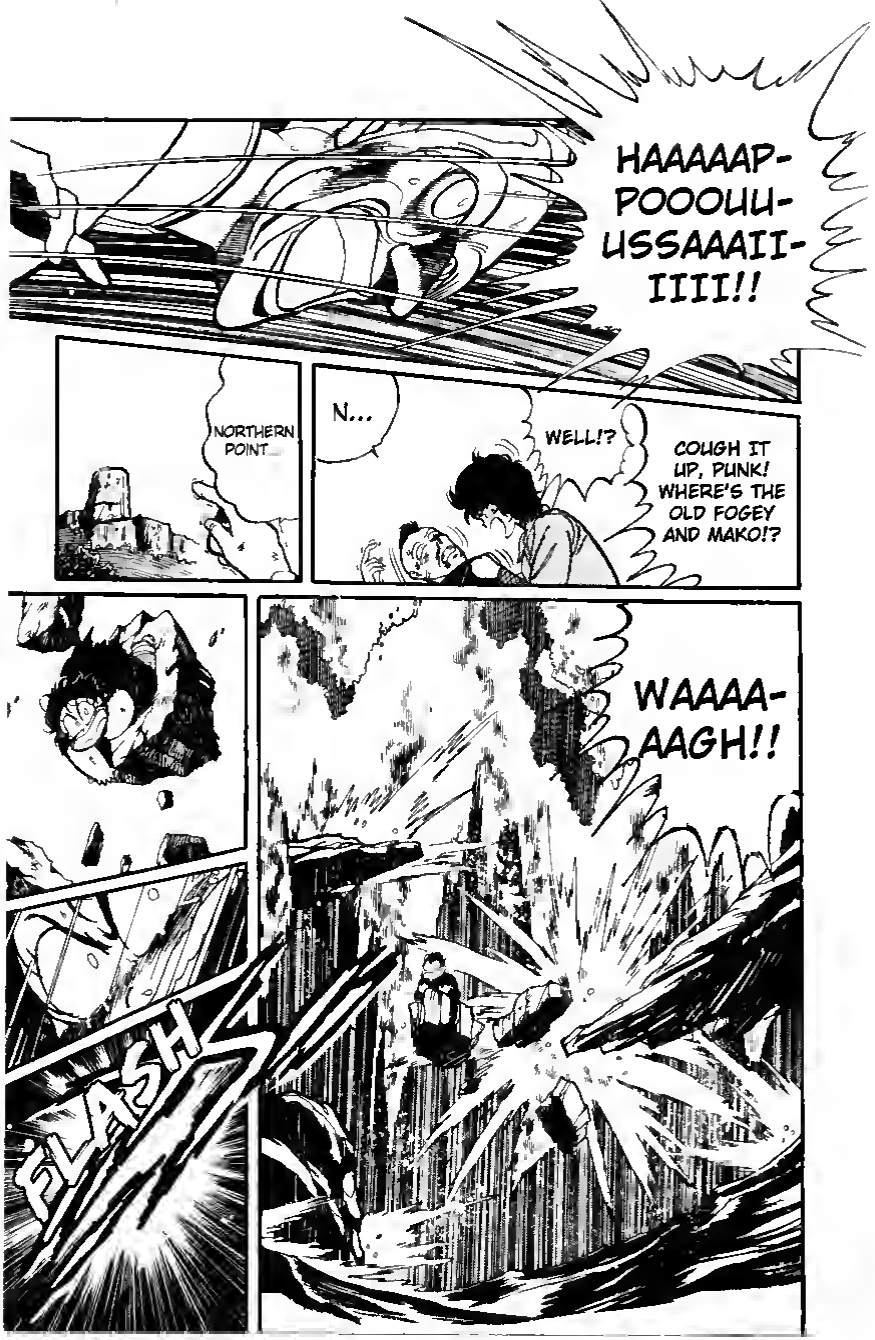
PHWEEEEEOOOOWWWWW


SHUT
SHUT
SHUT
SHUT

WOOOOOOOOOOOOH

I'VE JUST GOT ONE THING TO SAY.
NO.
THERE'S NOTHING WORTH DISCUSSING HERE.
I THINK WE CAN BOTH AGREE.

CARE TO CRACK OPEN MY SKULL AND FIND OUT WHAT'S INSIDE?
COME AT ME WITH ANY OF YOUR THOUSAND GENJUTSU TECHNIQUES AND SEE WHAT HAPPENS!!
FORTUNATELY, I MEMORIZED THE CONTENTS. THEY'RE PERFECTLY PRESERVED WITHIN MY MEMORY!
HOWEVER, THIRTY YEARS AGO, I BURNT IT TO A CRISP.
I DID, IN FACT, POSSESS IT AFTER ALL.
SURELY, YOU RECALL THE SCROLL OF EARTH BELONGING TO THE KASHIN FUUJINCHOU!

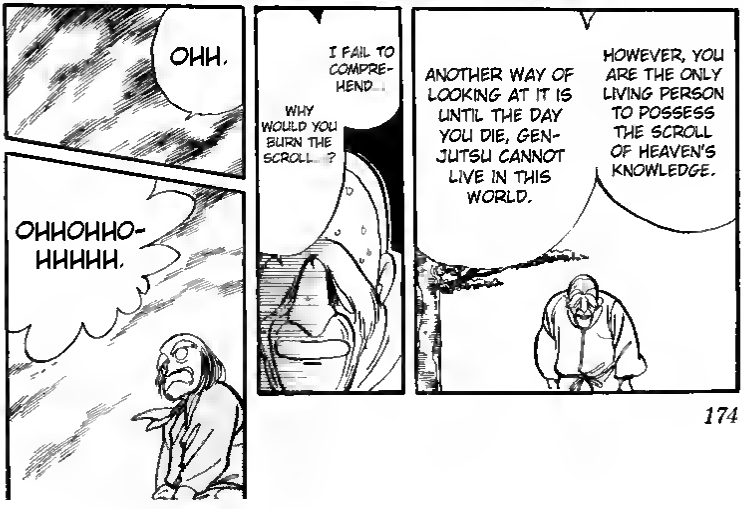

HAAAAAP-
POOOUU-
USSAAAII-
IIII!!
NORTHERN POINT...
N...
WELL!?
COUGH IT UP, PUNK! WHERE'S THE OLD FOGEY AND MAKO!?
WAAAA-
AAGH!!
FLASH

BWOOOOOOOOOSH
JUST AN ILLUSION...
HUFF..
HAHH...
WEAK-WILLED PEOPLE WOULD HAVE DIED FROM A HEART ATTACK EXPERIENCING SUCH A REALISTIC TECHNIQUE.
SKRRT
SHFFF
AMAZING WORK... MAKO-CHAN!
SHWEEEEEEEEE
COLL-APSED!?
MY GEN-JUTSU..
SHUNK

KEEP ON TRYING, THE RESULT'S JUST GONNA BE THE SAME.
PAIN IS THE ONE THING POWERFUL ENOUGH TO BRING SOMEONE BACK INTO REALITY!
SWOOOOOOOOH
MMGH
AAH.
WHEEZE
HAGH.
HRRGH
DID YOU REALIZE WHAT WAS CONTAINED WITHIN THE SCROLL OF EARTH WERE THE SPECIFIC COUNTERMEASURES TO ALL ONE THOUSAND OF THOSE TECHNIQUES?
GENJUROU
WRITTEN WITHIN THE FUUJINCHOU'S SCROLL OF HEAVEN ARE THE METHODS TO UTILIZING ONE THOUSAND UNIQUE TECHNIQUES OF ILLUSION..
IN PARALLEL...
IMPOSSIBLE... NONE OF MY ABILITIES ARE HAVING ANY EFFECT ON HAPPOUSAI, THIS IS PREPOSTEROUS...
WHAT'S THE PROBLEM? FIGURED YOU'D UNLEASH YOUR BIZARRE REPERTOIRE OF TECHNIQUES BY NOW.

I BELIEVE KOJI FORESAW THE DANGER OF HIS ART.
BLASH-PEMY! THAT SCROLL SHOULD...
B...

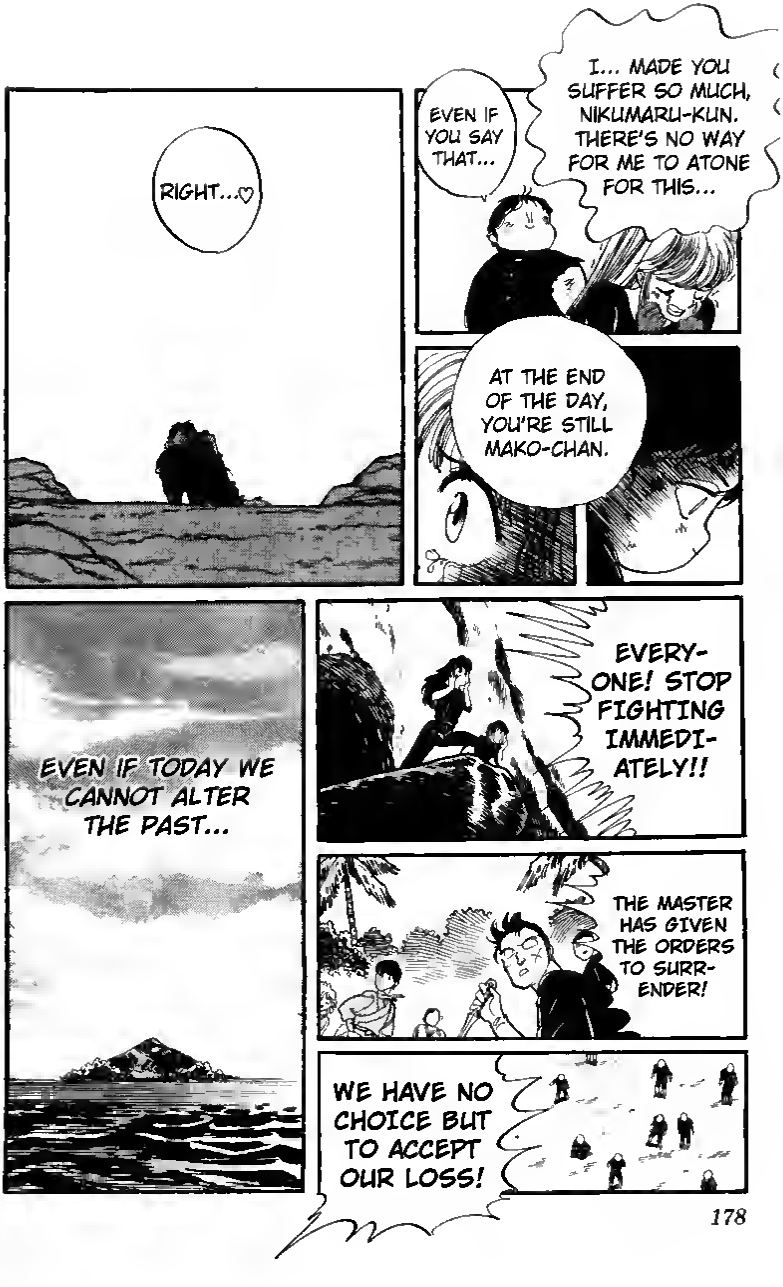
HAS NO PRACTICAL USE TO ANY ESTAB-LISHMENT.
GENJUTSU THAT CAN BE COUNTERED...


OHH.
OHHOHHO-HHHHH.
I FAIL TO COMPRE-HEND...
WHY WOULD YOU BURN THE SCROLL...?
ANOTHER WAY OF LOOKING AT IT IS UNTIL THE DAY YOU DIE, GEN-JUTSU CANNOT LIVE IN THIS WORLD.
HOWEVER, YOU ARE THE ONLY LIVING PERSON TO POSSESS THE SCROLL OF HEAVEN'S KNOWLEDGE.

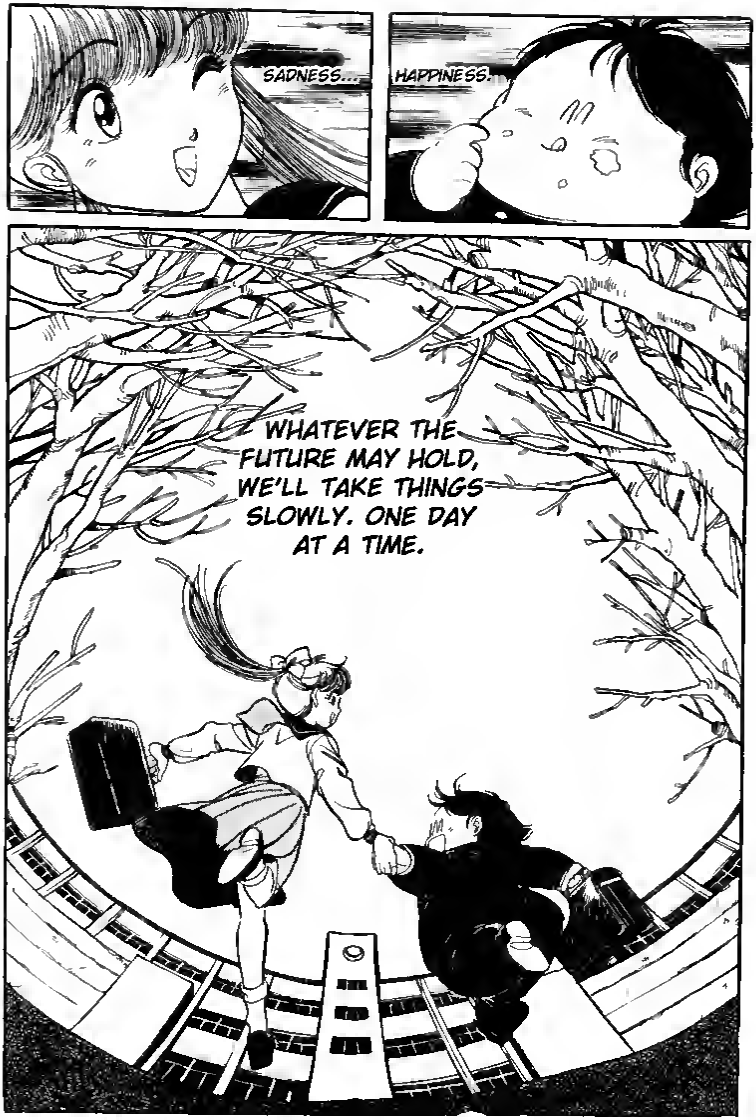
NOW I UNDERSTAND! WHAT PRECISELY HAS MY LIFE'S WORK ACCOMPLISHED NOW?
THESE PAST THIRTY YEARS OF DESPERATE EFFORTS HAVE ALL CRUMBLED APART INSTANTANEOUSLY.
OHO-HOHHH.
CONGRATULATIONS, HAPPOUSAI.
YOU ALONE HAVE MASTERED THE FUNDAMENTAL CORE OF DECEPTION.
PERHAPS MY LIFE WAS AN ILLUSION ITSELF...
KLOP
MAKO-CHAN.
TIME TO GO HOME...
NO...
STOP THIS.
YOU'LL DIE...
KYAA
SKIP
DONG

NIKUMARU-KUN COULD DIE!!
WHACK
!!!

THE OWNER'S GENJUTSU IS BROKEN.
WELCOME BACK.
I...
AH...
FINALLY, WE CAN GO HOME TOGETHER♡
MAKO-CHAN?
SELFISH! HYSTERICAL! THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG WITH ME, LIKE I'M MISSING A CRUCIAL PART THAT MAKES SOMEONE HUMAN!
JEALOUS!
UNPREDICTABLE!
VWOOOOOOOOOOOM...
I'VE COMPLETELY LOST MY MIND!
STAY AWAY, NIKUMARU-KUN!
WHAT IF THAT WAS THE REAL ME FINALLY BREAKING FREE FROM MENTAL RESTRAINT!?
WHAT IF I WAS NEVER BEING CONTROLLED BY AN ILLUSION...?


RIGHT...♡
EVEN IF YOU SAY THAT...
I... MADE YOU SUFFER SO MUCH, NIKUMARU-KUN. THERE'S NO WAY FOR ME TO ATONE FOR THIS...
AT THE END OF THE DAY, YOU'RE STILL MAKO-CHAN.
EVERY-ONE! STOP FIGHTING IMMEDI-ATELY!!
EVEN IF TODAY WE CANNOT ALTER THE PAST...
THE MASTER HAS GIVEN THE ORDERS TO SURR-ENDER!
WE HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO ACCEPT OUR LOSS!

NIKUMARU-KUN.♡
NIKUMARU-KUN♡
NIKUMARU-KUN.♡
WE CAN CERTAINLY CHANGE THE FUTURE STARTING TODAY...
DID YOU COMPLETELY FORGET TODAY WAS THE FIRST DAY OF CLASSES NOW THAT THE ACADEMY OF NINJAS HAS BEEN FULLY RECONSTRUCTED!?
HURRY UP OR WE'LL BE LATE, NIKUMARU!
I'M COMING.♡



ACADEMY OF NINJAS
~THE END~

Project Bite Me! Scanlations

MANGA: THE ACADEMY OF NINJAS

TRANSLATOR: STEALTH MOMO CLEANER: REETH

TYPESETTER: SMOKEY QUALITY CHECKER: YAZAWA

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NOT FOR SALE